

'Loyalists' reject Rees appeal to take part in a new Executive

"Loyalist" politicians refused, at meetings yesterday with Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to take part in any Executive formed by the British Government to replace Mr Faulkner's Administration. The minister said, however, that he would consider talking to the Ulster Workers' Council, the organization that precipitated the former Executive's collapse. During the Commons debate on the province next week, our Political Staff writes, the Government will come under backbench pressure to withdraw British troops from Northern Ireland.

Constitution Act dead duck, Mr Paisley says

From Robert Fisk Belfast
The Government's attempts to replant the seeds of the Constitution Act and form another power-sharing Administration in Northern Ireland fell on barren ground yesterday when, for the second time in a year, "loyalist" politicians trooped up to Stormont Castle and adjourned to play no part in a coalition Executive constructed by the British authorities.

Mr Rees, the province's Secretary of State, must have known that the men who helped to bring down Mr Faulkner's government this week would not cooperate with him, but even he may have been surprised by the signs of emergent Ulster nationalism. The leaders of the three parties who formed the now defunct Executive, Mr Faulkner, Mr Gerard Fitt and Mr Oliver Napier, agreed, of course, that power-sharing was the only political system that could operate effectively in Ulster, but the Rev Ian Paisley and his two colleagues, Mr Harry West, of the official Unionists, and Mr William Craig, of Vanguard, would have none of it. Mr Paisley told Mr Rees that the Constitution Act was "a dead duck" and he suggested that a conference of Ulster politicians, from which Englishmen would be excluded, should be held to decide on a new form of administration. Mr West did not even seem concerned by the possibility of a British withdrawal from the province. "I am not unduly worried," he said, "I should like to see it happening and certainly we are not going to break the link, but if they want to pull out we cannot stop them doing it."

Mr Rees apparently told some of the political leaders, who visited him that public opinion in Britain was turning against Northern Ireland. Mr Napier, for example, said that Mr Rees had indicated to him "that British public

Major reprisal feared if Price sisters die

By Christopher Walker
The security risks of the continuing hunger strike of the two Price sisters increased yesterday with a warning from the Provisional IRA in Dublin that the consequences of their death would be devastating for the Government. The threat is not being taken lightly in Northern Ireland. A senior officer at Army headquarters in Lisburn said: "The death of either of the Price girls could not come at a worse time as far as we are concerned."

"As a result of the loyalists' strike, support for the Provisionals has been increasing in Catholic areas in the last two weeks. The death of the Price sisters could push things over the top."

Even before yesterday the security forces had already started on contingency plans anticipating reprisals in the event of the sisters dying. Some intelligence sources in Ulster believe,

however, that any reprisals will be taken in England and that they will be of a spectacular nature.

"Indications are that they will be worse than anything we have seen before," an officer said.

A letter released yesterday by the committee campaigning for the sisters' transfer to jails in Ulster confirms that the girls are prepared to continue their hunger strike until death.

Part of the letter, sent from Belfast, reads: "Each day passes and we fade a little more, but no matter how the body may fade, our determination never will. We have geared ourselves for this and there is no other answer. Let it be on the conscience of the politicians if they have any conscience left."

It was disclosed yesterday that another prisoner, Miss Pat Arrowsmith, the pacifist, has also begun to refuse food in support of the sisters' cause.

Mounting pressure to withdraw troops

By Michael Hatfield
When the Commons meets for the two-day emergency debate next week the Government will come under pressure for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland.

A claim yesterday by Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian) that half the Parliamentary Labour Party is privately in favour of pulling troops out should be treated with circumspection, but there is no doubt that many backbenchers are becoming increasingly sympathetic to the view.

It is a view now confined to Labour. At least three Liberal MPs, Mr Steel, the chief whip, Mr Padoe and Mr Cyril Smith are now questioning whether British troops should stay in the province.

Both the PLP and the Parliamentary Liberal Party are to hold meetings on Monday, before the two-day debate starts, and some expression of those views is expected.

While the Government will resist such suggestions, Mr Dalyell, who recently wrote to *The Times*, said yesterday that a number of ministers agreed with him. He quoted one of them as saying: "Too bloody right."

Mr Dalyell said withdrawal should be "within days rather than weeks". It would be disastrous not to recognize that a bloodbath might follow a withdrawal, but he believed that it would not occur.

He said he was being asked: "Instead of spending money on this hopeless carry-on in Ireland, why do we not use the resources to pay nurses, teachers, miners and railwaymen and do something about our own schools and hospitals?"

He added: "I think the feeling in the country is far more in favour of withdrawing troops than the feeling in the Labour Party."

In the working-class areas of West Lothian well over 80 per cent of the people are in favour of coming out, and these are second and third generation Irishmen.

Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, said after he had seen Mr Wilson on Wednesday that he knew some members of his party believed troops should be withdrawn over a period of between two and four years.

The Shadow Cabinet is expected to meet on Monday, when Mr Heath, due back from China that morning, will be briefed on developments.

Shadow Ministers who have received further information from the Prime Minister about the legality of the Government's action under the Constitution Act are now satisfied that it was possible to carry on the powers of the executive through ministers at the Northern Ireland Office.

The principal speakers in the Commons debate will be Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; and Mr Silkin, Attorney General; Mr Pym, former Secretary of State; Mr Deedes, chairman of the Conservative Northern Ireland backbench committee; Mr Wilson, Mr Orme, Minister of State, Northern Ireland; Mr Heath; and Mr Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on defence.

Mr Slater tells his shareholders cash is the optimum investment

By Maurice Barfether
Mr Jim Slater spent an hour and a quarter yesterday telling shareholders in Slater, Walker Securities why "cash remains the optimum investment for the major part of your company's available resources."

Speculation that Slater's massive sales of shareholdings in industrial companies were the prelude to a bid appeared at least premature.

Shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting in London, packed with more than 600 people, were told: "We had tentative, nebulous bid talks which had not reached the stage where we had to communicate to shareholders." The identity of the possible suitor was not disclosed.

Mr Slater's philosophy of turning his shareholdings in industrial concerns and much of his United Kingdom property into cash, which totalled some £125m in the 1973 balance sheet, was taken up further yesterday when he told the meeting that a property had just been sold for £9,500,000.

That brings realisations so far this year up to £50m, with a further sum in prospect from talks expected to be concluded in the next few days for the sale of 15 per cent of Slater's 37.45 per cent shareholding in Solicitors Law, where the Thomson Organisation has a large stake.

Cash, Mr Slater said, in addition to being high yielding, was also a very flexible asset. That, he said, left Slater, Walker in a uniquely strong position to take advantage of favourable investment opportunities.

Many people in recent months have found you cannot always turn property into cash, you cannot always turn large lines of shares into cash, you cannot always turn pictures into cash. Cash you can always turn into other things. In the present situation "the risk-reward ratio is too great elsewhere."

Mr Slater, who is 45, drew applause by declaring that "I'm feeling very well, feeling energetic and have never been as involved in the business as I am now." He emphasized that whatever happened to the economy, "it is right to be in cash."

"The world economy is obviously in a critical condition," he continued. "Everyone seems to agree there is at least the risk of hyper-inflation (double figures) on the one hand and

world recession on the other. The third possibility is a neutral phase, single-figure inflation as usual."

With a neutral phase, Mr Slater pointed out, Slater, Walker would be able to wait for a trend, and the most they would lose would be part of a gain. World recession would certainly mean cash was attractive, while there was no proof that hyper-inflation was good for equities.

Since the end of last year Slater has sold his investments in Blackburn Assurance, Pioneer Life Assurance, Crittall-Hope Engineering, Slater, Walker of America, Slater, Walker Australia and Slater, Walker Securities (South Africa).

But Mr Slater said, there was an understanding with Richard Costain, Rockware Group and Mr David Frost's Equity Enterprises, that Slater's shareholdings in those companies were long-term.

Strict security for Geneva signing of Golan pact today

From Our Correspondent Geneva, May 30
Israeli and Syrian generals will meet face-to-face tomorrow, under United Nations auspices, to sign the disengagement agreement negotiated by Dr Henry Kissinger. It will mean an immediate end to the fighting on the Golan Heights which has been going on for some 80 days.

The signing ceremony will take place during a meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli military working group, set up at the inaugural session in December of the Middle East peace conference.

The Syrians are now apparently to join this group, under the chairmanship of General Essid Shihab, commander of the United Nations Emergency Force. It is expected to deal with various details involved in carrying out the agreement, which provides for Israel's withdrawal to a ceasefire line in the heights and the creation of a buffer zone supervised by a 1,250-man United Nations observation force.

Repatriation of wounded prisoners of war will be carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross simultaneously with the signing — 25 Syrians and one Moroccan will be flown to Damascus and 15 Israelis taken back to Tel Aviv.

After that, the ICRC expects to proceed with the repatriation of some 400 Syrian and 53 Israeli prisoners.

The meeting will be in the Council Chamber at the Palais des Nations, also the venue of the peace conference in December. As was the case then, strict security precautions have been worked out by United Nations officials in cooperation with the Swiss authorities in full

awareness that the meeting may be regarded as a prime target by some Palestinian terrorists. However, the main Palestinian leadership, meeting in Cairo this weekend, is believed to be considering representation at the next stage of the conference.

Preparations are said to be well advanced for providing the Palestine Liberation Organization with a constitution giving it Government-in-exile status. The next step would be an invitation to Geneva and fuller public acceptance of the idea of a Palestinian state in West Bank territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 war.

To underline the association of tomorrow's meeting with the peace conference, it is being attended also by the United States and Soviet representatives, Mr Ellsworth Bunker, arriving tonight by special aircraft, and Mr Vladimir Vinogradov, former Ambassador to Egypt.

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, is due here early on Saturday. Peter Strafford writes from New York: Dr Waldheim today informed the Security Council of the terms of the disengagement agreement. He said he was prepared to set up the United Nations buffer force, but he would first need the council's approval.

The force is to be known as the United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF) and is to have an initial life of six months.

Dr Waldheim's intention that the 1,250 men should be taken from the emergency force already in position between the Egyptian and Israeli armies.

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Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother chatting with nurses yesterday after opening the Sir Jules Thorn Institute of Clinical Science at The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London University, of which she is chancellor.

Greece and Turkey play down Aegean dispute

From Our Correspondent Athens, May 30
Greece remained unruffled today as Turkey tried to assert the rights in the eastern half of the Aegean Sea by sending a naval survey vessel to carry out research for proposed oil drilling in disputed waters.

The Greek armed forces were said to be in a state of "increased vigilance", but there was no official alert or emergency. Some increased movement of troops and aircraft over the mainland and Crete could be explained by a national exercise code-named "Olympic Zeus", planned long ago and begun last Monday.

The Greek Cabinet has not been holding emergency sessions, as reported. Newspapers were not allowed to carry reports on the Turkish sortie.

Official sources said that the Government refused to play up to the "Turkish trial balloon" by overacting to the appearance of a survey ship in the Aegean. "We have no indication that the movements of this small vessel are in any way related to the programmed movements of Turkish naval forces for both national and NATO manoeuvres", one source said.

Greece and Turkey will be among the NATO countries taking part in exercises in the Aegean between June 4 and 13. A NATO source said: "Greek and Turkish ships are liable to be sailing fairly close to the disputed areas of the Aegean during the exercises."

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Police search Rotterdam for 100 Spurs fans

By Norman Fox
Police and travel agents were searching Rotterdam last night for more than a hundred Tottenham Hotspur supporters missing after Wednesday's riot at the UEFA Cup football final between Tottenham and Feyenoord. Three were known to be in hospital. About fifty other spectators, both Dutch and English, were treated for minor injuries and a Dutch policeman was in a serious condition after being hit on the head with an iron bar.

Rotterdam had not been visited by such scenes of violence since the war. More than 200 people were hurt during the match when Tottenham supporters tore seats from concrete and hurled them at Feyenoord spectators. Before the game the Tottenham crowds had terrorised the town and 22 were arrested. Nine were "too drunk to stand", a police officer said. After the game about 80 fans gathered near the stadium and the Feyenoord club east-

dated yesterday that £4,000 damage was done to the stadium, which holds 67,000 people, and was full.

The consequences of the riot will be far-reaching. Tottenham Hotspur Football Club faces a severe fine from the European Football Union and tonight the board will meet to discuss security at its own ground and ways of stopping hooligans travelling to matches abroad. Most of the 3,000 supporters who went to Rotterdam on specially chartered excursions, were booked through Four S, which specializes in sports events. The company's managing director, Mr David Dryer, spent yesterday trying to find the 110 supporters who should have returned by boat on Wednesday night.

They were thought to be the hooligans who started the trouble. He said that the company was seriously concerned at the "animal warfare" and would consider selling only the more expensive seating tickets at foreign grounds in future.

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HOME NEWS

Mental nurses refuse to distribute medicines in protest

The industrial action by the Confederation of Health Service Employees was stepped up yesterday when about 250 nurses at Glenside Mental Hospital, Bristol, refused to distribute medicines to patients. The nurses, who are already working under a rule and ban on overtime, said the reason for their refusal was that staff nurses were not being paid for deputizing for charge nurses.

The confederation's campaign for nurses' pay had by yesterday spread to 76 hospitals in Wales, according to Mr James Davies, regional officer. He said that nearly all Welsh hospitals would be affected by the overtime ban and other action during the coming week.

Throughout the country disaffected nurses made their feelings known. In London, 200 petitioners from Liverpool, Doncaster and Wakefield marched to 10 Downing Street, but they were unable to see the Prime Minister personally. Their petition, one of which contained 110,000 signatures, were handed in at the door.

At Leamington, Warwickshire, 300 workers at a car components factory downed tools in sympathy with a nurses' rally. Production at Automotive Products stopped for half an hour while leaders of the hundred nurses from several local hospitals held talks with the works convenor and shop stewards.

In Lincoln nurses held a two-hour strike and picket persuaded several delivery van drivers not to enter mental hospitals. Mr Francis Birch, secretary of the Lincoln branch

of the confederation said: "We have broken the myth that nurses will not strike for what they believe is right."

At Fulbourne Hospital, Cambridge, the canteen was boycotted by 300 nursing staff, and there was a ban on overtime and nursing duties. Staff at other hospitals in the area intend to follow suit.

Hundreds of nurses at Kettering, Northamptonshire, voted to postpone industrial action for two months to give the Government time to complete its inquiry into pay and conditions. And at St George's Hospital, Stafford, nurses may suspend their overtime ban in order to deal with an outbreak of food poisoning.

Nurses from nine Hull hospitals plan a silent protest march through the city tomorrow, but a recommendation by the local executive committee of the confederation for a mass walk-out was meeting resistance. In Dundee patients were sent home today from the Royal Dundee City Hospital and a ward was closed.

In Birmingham radiographers' representatives decided to strike if their pay claim is not met in full. Mr Alan Watson, the secretary of the national campaign committee, said they would be pressing the Society of Radiographers for a date after July 4 when their strike could begin.

July 4 will see the end of the three-month "breathing space" the radiographers have allowed.

The Birmingham conference was attended by members of about 30 action committees from many parts of the country.



A Tottenham Hotspur supporter injured during Wednesday's riot in Rotterdam arriving at Liverpool Street station, London.

Mr Faulkner: We expected strike to peter out

From Stewart Tandler
Belfast

The Stormont porters have stopped taking visitors to Mr Faulkner's office since he resigned as Chief Executive, and his staff thought referring to him as "chief" are defying the title from the letters he has to finish.

Yesterday, in Room 105, he still sat completing business. After the events of the past 16 days he has had the chance to contemplate how a group of men he has never met defeated his reputation for being "as cunning as a wagonload of monkeys."

Mr Faulkner would not admit that an initial mistake was made last autumn in not letting the "loyalists" take full part in the Sunningdale talks. "The leaders were invited to talks after the June election to set up an Executive. They refused and could not come in half-way through after the Executive had been formed," he said.

But even without Mr Paisley, Mr Craig and Mr West, the agreement reached in a Civil Service college during a few days' weekend perhaps had self-destructive written into it. The decision to formulate the Council of Ireland over a period

provided fuel for the loyalist response.

Mr Faulkner said he wished it had been possible to come out quickly with the form of the council and hold its first meeting to show people that there was no reason to distrust it. The council might have met at about the time the Executive began.

The general election proved to be, in Mr Faulkner's phrase, a watershed. He overestimated the Executive five weeks after its start.

Mr Faulkner said: "We were very disappointed in the results. They showed distrust of the Council of Ireland and hostility to the Executive, but mainly the people of Northern Ireland, saying: 'We have had enough. We do not know what to do to show our feelings.' The strike was a further development."

"I do not believe any of us thought it would escalate as it did. We misjudged it."

That was the admission of a politician who was once one of the great links between Stormont and rank-and-file Unionists.

Action over the barricades and the petrol situation should

have been taken right from the start, he said.

This is one of the difficulties of having a government without responsibility for law and order. It was flouted for days, and that provided majority support for the strike, because people said: "If authority is not attempting to preserve the law, there is no point in our taking action."

Mr Faulkner said it was expected all along that the strike would peter out. That was the feeling of Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the Prime Minister. It left them with a difficult decision about the timing of any action.

At Chequers a decision was made. "I was confident," Mr Faulkner said, "that there would be action to implement plans within 48 hours, by Sunday night or Sunday evening."

Mr Faulkner said he was not sure if the strike would be influenced by a Protestant rampage through North Antrim on Friday night.

Thirty-three men were picked up afterwards by the Army. The arrests brought information, which Mr Faulkner would not disclose. It is possible that the Army received stronger evi-

dence of the size of the military threat it faced.

Mr Faulkner said: "I am confident from Sunday night that the only means of getting the strike ended was going to be by resigning, because I was confident by that time that it was not possible for the Services to provide enough power to keep the community going."

He believes that the Ulster people will realize "they have done more damage in five weeks than the IRA did in five years to persuade people in Britain that they should pull out, but I do not believe responsible leadership would tolerate this. There would be serious civil war."

"Membership of the United Kingdom is a great thing, both emotionally and economically," he continued. However, he could not deny that the spectre of nationalism had grown with the strike towards support for an Ulster UDI.

Mr Faulkner is not prepared to take his second fall from power as a technical specialist. He considers that his group of Unionists will retain its unity. In the "political ball game" he is intent on continuing to play.

Union backs TUC in emotional Ulster vote

From Ronald Kerhaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent
Scarborough

Despite pleas and warnings by Northern and Southern Ireland delegates not to debate the Ulster situation, the biennial conference of the boilermakers' union, at Scarborough yesterday, passed an emergency resolution backing TUC policy to support genuine representatives of the trade union movement in Northern Ireland in their efforts to secure a resumption of normal work.

The resolution was merely used by delegates to present their views on the Northern Ireland situation, the TUC statement of May 22 on the resumption of work having been overtaken by events.

In a highly charged and often emotional debate, Northern Ireland delegates presented their views on the Northern Ireland situation, the TUC statement of May 22 on the resumption of work having been overtaken by events.

Mr Daniel McGarvey, president, said: "The executive council does not accept terrorism from the IRA or any other organization which sets out to take the lives of workers, of wives and children, and the soldiers who have been killed."

The union was right to decide for its situation and its support for the TUC that had condemned the action of the Ulster Workers' Council, which by intimidation and violence had imposed a complete stoppage of work.

Mr Andrew Berry, of Belfast, said Northern Ireland members respected the desire of the TUC to help Northern Ireland in a bolstering operation, but he added flatly: "Northern Ireland trade unionists do not require bolstering."

A strike of craftsmen in British Steel Corporation plants in the North-east appears inevitable. Delegates representing the North East Coast Allied Craft Committee told the conference that they would strike on Monday over the rejection of their claim for improved pay and better fringe benefits.

Threats to Lord Arran after attack on Irish

Lord Arran said yesterday he had received "a lot of threats" after writing in an article about the Irish: "I loathe and detest the miserable bastards."

He also described them as "savagely murderous thugs" and ended: "May the Irish, all of them, rot in hell." The article appeared in the London Evening News on Wednesday.

Lord Arran added: "I have been advised to take devious routes home. I think the police are looking after me."

Mr Albert Gallard, Labour MP for Camden, St Pancras, North, is to ask the Attorney General in the Commons next week to institute proceedings against Lord Arran under the Race Relations Act.

Mr Stralder said: "This piece went a bit beyond the bounds of ordinary buffoonery and I think it was quite offensive." A number of his constituents have been contacted.

The National Association of Community Relations Councils denounced the article as racist.

'Loyalists' refuse to work with SDLP

Continued from page 1

the motions," he said. "He is a radical, realistic politician."

Mr Fitz emerged an hour later with predictably similar comments, saying that sharing power was the only form of government that could bring peace to the province.

Mr Paisley said he would share power with the loyalists. He replied: "I would think that Mr Paisley, Mr Craig and Mr West have pulled down the shutters. They have said that they are not prepared to sit down with representatives of the Catholic community. Mr West has said he will not sit with the Social Democratic and Labour Party."

Mr Napier presented the longest speech to the press after his talks with Mr Rees. He spent much of his time emphasizing the disgust felt in Britain about Ulster's political situation: "The House of Commons and the vast majority of the British electorate consider that Northern Ireland has been given many chances and they are not very well disposed to us at the moment," he said. "That is a point of view I can clearly understand."

Mr West was the first visitor after lunch and he emerged from seeing Mr Rees without receiving any guarantee that Britain would allow fresh elections in the province. That had been the demand of the Ulster Workers' Council, which broke up the Northern Ireland Executive with its 15-day general strike, and it appears that no undertaking was given either to Mr Paisley or to Mr Craig.

"Mr Rees was most anxious to know if we would join in a reconstructed Executive on a power-sharing basis," Mr West said. "We said 'no'."

Asked about his refusal to share power with the SDLP, which emerged at the Assembly elections as the only substantial Catholic party, Mr West said: "I am not telling you that we are against sharing power with Roman Catholics. That is a slur. But we will share power only with those people who accept the constitution of this country. We will not share power with the SDLP under any circumstances, because they want a united Ireland."

Mr Paisley not only described the Constitution Act as a dead duck, but also compared the Executive with a horse that had fallen on the first fence and had to be shot.

Mr Paisley said he wanted either total integration within the United Kingdom or, if that was not possible, he told Mr Rees, "only the people of Northern Ireland as a whole would decide how they are to be governed."

30-year sentence: Michael McManus, a member of the Belfast Provisional IRA, was jailed for life by Belfast City Commission yesterday for ordering and planning the murder of a soldier in the Andersonstown area of the city last year (the Press Association reports).

The judge recommended that he should spend at least 30 years in prison when Mr McManus was found guilty of murdering Private Michael George Mann.

Early recall of Forces specialists in province

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The 500 Army and Royal Navy technical specialists drafted into Northern Ireland to help to cope with the general strike will start returning from Ulster next week.

The Ministry of Defence is also considering withdrawing the two infantry battalions and The Queen's Dragoon Guards who have been held in the province because of the breakdown of public services.

If all those specialists withdrawn it would bring down the Army's strength in Northern Ireland from 17,000 to just over 15,000. But no final decision is expected until after the weekend.

Talk of a more permanent, complete withdrawal of troops from Ulster, however, finds no friends among the military in their headquarters at Lisburn. Soldiers are aware that any uncertainty over their future would be less than the IRA gunmen and others who would like to see them go.

That is the conventional view. A less conventional one is that the IRA would prefer to shoot at British troops than at Protestants because Protestants are less likely to be retrained and less discriminating.

Soldiers are disheartened by the collapse of the political framework. They have always said that they could hope only to contain the violence, not to end it, and in recent months they have contained it as well as could be expected of them.

In brief

Selling eggs 13 to the dozen

Shoppers who buy a dozen eggs at a chain of Yorkshire supermarkets next month will be given thirteen eggs as they leave each store.

The experiment, inspired by Goldenlay, the largest egg-packing company in Britain, represents a new way of trying to stabilize wildly veering egg prices once and for all.

Conservative choice
Mr Barry Porter, aged 34, a solicitor, has been selected as Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Chorley, Lancashire. Mrs C. M. Monks, the former Conservative MP for the constituency, decided not to stand again after being defeated in March.

General election: C. Rodgers (Lab) 25,440; Mrs C. M. Monks (C) 25,035; Mrs M. O'Neill (L) 12,652; Lab majority 405.

Less fall-out in milk
There was less radioactive fall-out in milk last year, figures published yesterday by the Agricultural Research Council showed. Levels of strontium-90 in 1973 were nine-tenths the 1972 level.

Twelve for trial
Twelve men, including former employees of the North Thames Gas Board, were committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court by Harrow magistrates yesterday on various charges involving either a conspiracy or corruption. All were allowed bail.

Burnt boy inquiry
An army inquiry is being held into an incident near Caterham, Surrey, on Wednesday night when Steven Gunston, aged 13, rolled into a campfire while sleeping out on a cadet exercise. He is in hospital with severe burns.

Fewer fire deaths
Deaths by fire in England and Wales in the first quarter of this year dropped to 159 from 186 in the corresponding period last year.

Cockpit recorder law explained
British-registered airlines that came into service after April 1, 1971, and all Boeing 747 jumbo jets will have to carry cockpit voice-recorders in addition to flight-data recorders, from January 1 next, the Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday in an official correction to a statement issued on Wednesday.

The authority added that talks had taken place with the aviation industry about other airlines, registered before that date, being required by law to carry recorders. The European Division of British Airways and some other operators had agreed to install the equipment voluntarily.

Stricter regulations likely after death of girl who collapsed in pop concert crush

By Michael Horsnell

Stricter safety requirements at pop concerts attended by very young girls are expected to follow the death of Bernadette Whelan, aged 14, who collapsed at a concert given by David Cassidy, the American singer, on Sunday.

The girl, who had a heart attack in the crush at the White City stadium, London, and suffered brain damage, died yesterday in Hammersmith Hospital.

The Greater London Council, which granted the licence, said it would examine safety requirements for very young audiences. Reports from the council's licensing department and the fire brigade indicate, however, that all requirements were met by the concert's organizers.

We will look more closely at the calibre of audiences," the GLC said. "There is a lot of difference between audiences of 17-year-olds and up-

wards, and teenyboppers. But we have no criticism to make of the organizers."

There is no way we can deal with a situation where a 13-year-old girl puts a fist through a chain-link fence or where 30 to 40 guards cannot hold a door against kids," permission had been given for 40,000 to attend the concert and fewer than 35,000 arrived. The organizers also engaged more than twice as many attendants as required.

Five Jerry Wiggins, Conservative for Weston-super-Mare, called Night Assemblies Bill in the House of Commons last year, called for greater control over such concerts.

The girl, who lived at Stockwell Park, south London, had stood for 12 hours to ensure a good vantage point at the concert. She was crushed as hundreds of hysterical youngsters pressed towards the stage. More than 700 had to be treated after the concert.

Mr Mel Bush, who organized the concert, said he deeply regretted the death and injuries that had happened. "The council required the provision of one security attendant to every 250 persons," he said. "We engaged Artists Services, an organization with great experience of providing security attendants at pop music concerts, to provide 250 men; and a further 150 regular White City attendants were also present, making a total of 400."

Mr Cassidy, who was resting yesterday before leaving Britain, said in a statement: "I am very saddened and distressed to hear of the death of Bernadette and wish to express my sincere condolences to her family. Obviously I am deeply upset that such a tragedy should have occurred at one of my concerts." He had done everything in his power to calm the audience, even stopping the show at one point for 20 minutes.

London evening paper may change format
By Sheila Black

London will probably have two tabloid evening newspapers before the end of September. Mr Vere Harcourt, chairman of Associated Newspapers, which publishes the Evening News, said yesterday that no decision had been reached, but a project for changing its format had been under review for some time.

The Daily Mail became a tabloid in May, 1971, just before the death of the Daily Sketch, which was absorbed by the Daily Mail. More recently, there has been a strong promotional campaign for the Daily Mail arguing that the impact of tabloid pages is as great as that of a broadsheet page.

The Evening News and the Evening Standard have both gained sales recently; in the six months ended last March the former sold 852,377 copies daily and the Evening Standard's circulation was 534,863.

One drawback for a tabloid Evening News could be some loss of identity; at present the two papers cannot easily be confused. The provisional date for a change in the Evening News seems to be September 23.

Price rise warning: The Sun may cost its readers more by the end of the summer, Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, which also owns the News of the World, said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Mr Murdoch said in his annual statement to shareholders that there had been an enormous rise in the cost of newsprint. "We are hopeful however of obtaining a price increase before the end of the summer."

Doctor gave drug addict his mother's tablets

A doctor gave a drug addict, aged 17, a prescription for sleeping pills for his mother, even though she had telephoned warning him not to give her son drugs, it was stated at an inquest on the youth at Hammersmith yesterday.

Francesco MacCormack, a builder's labourer, lived with his mother, Mrs Consuela Raketta, at Stoney Road, Hammersmith. He took "an enormous quantity" of her pills after suffering a bad LSD "trip," it was stated.

Dr Maurice Marks, of Shepherd's Bush, said: "The son must have asked for capsules for his mother and I just gave him a few. Sometimes we do not know who is coming."

The dead youth's brother, Mr John MacCormack, of Elderslie Road, Shepherd's Bush, said all his family took drugs. Some time earlier she had gone to Chalk Farm to get cannabis but could get only LSD. "Frankie tried it and said he had a really bad trip. He said that he kept on having flashbacks, as I did."

Dr Richard Pearce, a pathologist, giving the cause of death as acute barbiturate poisoning, said the son had taken an enormous number of tablets, about two dozen.

Dr John Burton, the coroner, said the doctor was short-staffed and often gave repeat prescriptions. "It is not a situation one would wish for in an ideal world. You can get flashbacks to a bad LSD trip 12 months after taking it. Maybe the boy took the tablets when he had a flashback."

A verdict of death from misadventure was recorded.

Commission not to bring Asian cases to court

From Our Correspondent
Strasbourg, May 30

The European Commission of Human Rights announced today that it would not bring the 31 East African Asian immigrant cases pending against Britain before the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Now, unless by June 5 the British Government applies to the court, a ruling on whether Britain has violated the Human Rights Convention over her treatment of these immigrants will have to be made by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The commission today gave no reason for its decision not to bring the cases before the court.

Plastic booms used to mop up oil spills

A Canadian system for controlling and cleaning up offshore oil spills was explained to representatives of the Government, the Services and Industry in London yesterday. Its main advantages are claimed to be that it can operate in the open sea with waves up to six feet high, and that it recovers the oil instead of dispersing it with chemicals.

The system was developed by Bennett Pollution Controls, of Vancouver, with the aid of a research grant from the Canadian Government. It consists basically of two flexible plastic booms and a shallow vessel rather like a landing craft, known as a "skimmer".

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Weather forecast and recordings



Channel: Wind NE, moderate; sea light.

Irish Sea: Wind variable, light; sea smooth.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max, 7 am to 7 pm, 17°C (63°F); min, 7 pm to 7 am, 12°C (54°F). Humid, 7 pm, 42 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 7 pm, 41.5 mm. Sea level, 7 pm, 1,012.3 millibars. Barometric pressure, 29.53 in.

At the resorts
24 hours to 7 pm, May 30

E COAST
Brighton 19.2 11.2 17 63 Sunny
Bournemouth 18.8 10.8 16 61 Sunny
Cardiff 18.5 10.5 15 60 Sunny
Glasgow 18.2 10.2 14 59 Sunny
Liverpool 17.8 9.8 13 58 Sunny
Manchester 17.5 9.5 12 57 Sunny
Newcastle 17.2 9.2 11 56 Sunny
Plymouth 16.8 8.8 10 55 Sunny
Reading 16.5 8.5 9 54 Sunny
Sheffield 16.2 8.2 8 53 Sunny
Southampton 15.8 7.8 7 52 Sunny
Tottenham 15.5 7.5 6 51 Sunny
W COAST
Bristol 15.2 7.2 5 50 Sunny
Cardiff 14.8 6.8 4 49 Sunny
Glasgow 14.5 6.5 3 48 Sunny
Liverpool 14.2 6.2 2 47 Sunny
Manchester 13.8 5.8 1 46 Sunny
Newcastle 13.5 5.5 0 45 Sunny
Plymouth 13.2 5.2 0 44 Sunny
Reading 12.8 4.8 0 43 Sunny
Sheffield 12.5 4.5 0 42 Sunny
Southampton 12.2 4.2 0 41 Sunny
Tottenham 11.8 3.8 0 40 Sunny
Wales
Cardiff 11.5 3.5 0 39 Sunny
Glasgow 11.2 3.2 0 38 Sunny
Liverpool 10.8 2.8 0 37 Sunny
Manchester 10.5 2.5 0 36 Sunny
Newcastle 10.2 2.2 0 35 Sunny
Plymouth 9.8 1.8 0 34 Sunny
Reading 9.5 1.5 0 33 Sunny
Sheffield 9.2 1.2 0 32 Sunny
Southampton 8.8 0.8 0 31 Sunny
Tottenham 8.5 0.5 0 30 Sunny

some brighter spells; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 17°C (63°F).

Central S, SW, NW and central N England, Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Dry, rather cloudy; sunny spells; max temp 17°C (63°F).

NE and E England: Mainly dry, rather cloudy; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 16°C (61°F).

SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 17°C (63°F).

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HOME NEWS

Blaze risk in many hotels gives guests too slim a chance of waking up alive, fire chief says

By a Staff Reporter

The fire risk in many hotels gave guests far too slender a chance of waking up alive, Mr James Flemming, Chief Fire Officer for Hertfordshire, said yesterday. He spoke of the scandal of hotels that still had not registered under the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, and warned that fire authorities might have to use the "mild fist approach" to enforce the Act.

He was speaking in London at a conference on fire precautions organized by the *Career and Hotelkeeper* magazine. In a leading article this week the magazine said the Act was not workable, was administratively mad, fiscally stupid, and left the industry at the mercy of unnecessarily tough firemen.

Mr Flemming told delegates

from the hotel industry that it would be tragic if any vociferous lobby should succeed in detracting from the aims of the Act, which gave guests a reasonable chance of waking up alive in their hotels.

He said that barely 60 per cent of premises had applied for certification under the Act, and added: "The velvet glove approach has not paid off. Perhaps it is time for the mailed fist approach."

Afterwards he explained that that would mean much more rigid application of the Act by fire authorities, through the courts. Under the Act hotels would be registered when fire precautions had been brought to a certain standard.

Mr Flemming said the industry was frequently at the cause of the cost involved and delays in carrying out work. But

the fire authorities were reasonable, and hotels should not hide behind the difficulties they faced in order to avoid fulfilling the requirements.

Mr John Hooper, secretary of the British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers' Association, said that although his organization fully supported the aims of the Act, the industry had a case for requesting financial help to do work required under it.

The association intended to press the Government for help to offset the financial hardship suffered by many hoteliers. A survey was to be made of 1,200 hoteliers to find out how much hardship was being caused by fulfilling the Act's requirements.

Mr Kyle Bosworth, who organized the conference, said he was disappointed that only 45 out of an expected 150 delegates had taken part.

Nine Asians arrested after picket fighting

From David Leigh, Leicester

Nine Asian pickets were arrested in a factory gate clash with policemen outside the Imperial Typewriter plant in East Park Road, Leicester, yesterday. They will appear before Leicester magistrates today, charged with various offences, including assault and obstruction.

The incident follows a month-long strike by about 400 of the 1,100 Asians employed at the plant. None of the 400 white manual workers is on strike.

The company officials dismissed the last of the strikers yesterday and is offering to re-employ only some of them. The Race Relations Board yesterday began to investigate allegations of discrimination at the company's Leicester factories.

Today 200 of the strikers intend to hand in a petition of protest at the London headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has opposed the strike by its members.

The police say that about 150 pickets tried to get into the factory at lunchtime to persuade other Asians to join them and fighting broke out when policemen on duty stopped them. A television crew was filming at the time; company officials later suggested that that might have provoked the fighting.

The strike began because of a dispute over bonus payments and allegations that local union officials would not allow Asians to elect their own stewards.



Mr Spike Milligan leaving court yesterday after his conditional discharge.

Why Spike Milligan shot youth

By a Staff Reporter

Spike Milligan took the law into his own hands the day he discovered a trespasser in the garden of his north London home. Highgate magistrates were told yesterday. Mr Milligan, aged 56, pleaded guilty to assaulting a boy aged 16 with an air rifle.

In a statement to the police Mr Milligan said that for two years he had been plagued with

vandalism at the bottom of his garden.

"They have tried to set fire to my daughter's Wendy hut and have smashed all the furniture in there", he said. "I have built a studio in my garden, and this has also been smashed and attempts made to break into it. They entered on the steps and in the Wendy hut. Even the overhead high-powered cable has been pulled to the ground and is a potential danger."

He had reported the incidents to the police, and had decided, as all lawful methods had failed, that to stop the vandals he would try to track them down himself.

He knew the pellet gun was not lethal. "I saw the movement of a dark-haired youth, who started to run," his statement continued. "As I moved towards

him I noticed a plank of wood resting against one of the windows of my studio. This had not been there 40 minutes before."

"I was so incensed that I fired. . . . It is my firm opinion that these youths would have broken into my studio."

Der Chief Inspector Ronald Jones said he had been to the garden since the incident and had been quite appalled at the damage done by vandals.

Conditionally discharging Mr Milligan, for 12 months, Mr Charles Woolnough, chairman, said it was quite obvious that he was acting under extreme provocation.

"Having said that," he added, "we must point out that society in this country will not condone the use of loaded weapons by people against other people."

Buyers still command market for homes

By Gerald Ely, Estates Correspondent

Estate agents say that house prices realized are lower than six months ago, according to a report published yesterday. The report, based on a survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Department of the Environment, covers the quarter ended February 28 last.

It says that selling conditions in the period deteriorated further as the volume of mortgage commitments undertaken by the building societies was reduced. The economic uncertainties added to the decline.

The survey indicates that the average number of house sales by each agent fell by a fifth from the previous quarter and the ratio of sales to dwellings on sale fell to the lowest level since 1969. There was also a further lengthening of the time taken to effect sales, with the highest recorded figure since 1966 for the average number of dwellings offered for sale by each agent.

The institution said yesterday that although the survey went only to February, selling conditions were still difficult. Those in no hurry to sell tended to withdraw from the market, although some were giving preference to first-time buyers in an attempt to avoid breakdowns in chains of sale.

The institution doubts whether the house-building industry has the capacity to build enough houses in time to affect supply and demand significantly.

Experience of first borstal hostel is reassuring

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Boys from the first borstal hostel in Britain have committed much less petty crime during the first year than is general for their age group.

The hostel, at Ipswich, accommodates only 12 boys at a time, but 150 have passed through it since it was established as an experiment in 1968. The experience should help to reassure people in communities which do not much like having this sort of offender living among them.

The Advisory Council on the Penal System, which recently reported on the young adult offender, would like to see more of the hostels, so that young people could be treated in the community.

Home Office approval for more hostels depends upon the success of this first one. Taylor House, which is part of Hollesley Bay borstal. A report assessing it is being prepared by psychologists for the Home Office.

Whether boys from the hostel commit less crime after release than those from a normal borstal is something the Home Office report will seek to answer.

Mr Michael Whidam, who was in charge between 1971 and 1973, said yesterday that his impression was that the recidivism rate of boys there was certainly no worse. He was speaking in London at a Howard League for Penal Reform meeting.

Boys at the hostel would have committed theft, minor robbery and taking and driving away vehicles, and drug offences, though not as serious addicts. No sex offenders, or

boys with more than nine previous convictions were housed. In spite of the comparative freedom the boys were allowed, Mr Whidam knows of only one who ended in court during his stay, and that was on a theft charge. Two others were caught in the process of stealing at a supermarket and were sent back to the main borstal.

The hostel works on the "carrot and stick" principle. The stick is the threat of being sent to the main borstal; the carrot is the privileges the boys at the hostel enjoy. They have to be in by 11 pm on weekdays and midnight at weekends.

In spite of comparatively high unemployment in Ipswich there was no shortage of employers willing to give them jobs, which they had to find for themselves. Some earned up to £60 a week in the building trade. They were allowed to keep part of their earnings, but made to save some said pay for their keep at the hostel. Some boys found local girl friends and settled in the community.

The object is to help the boys to stand on their own feet. Those at the hostel were homeless or could not get on at home, and poor.

Two more of the hostels have been approved, one at Nottingham and the other at Leeds but the latter has run into community opposition.

The experience at Ipswich, where the local community appears to have cooperated well, is reassuring. Many more such hostels would have to be provided if the results at Ipswich showed that they make a real contribution to the rehabilitation of the young offender.

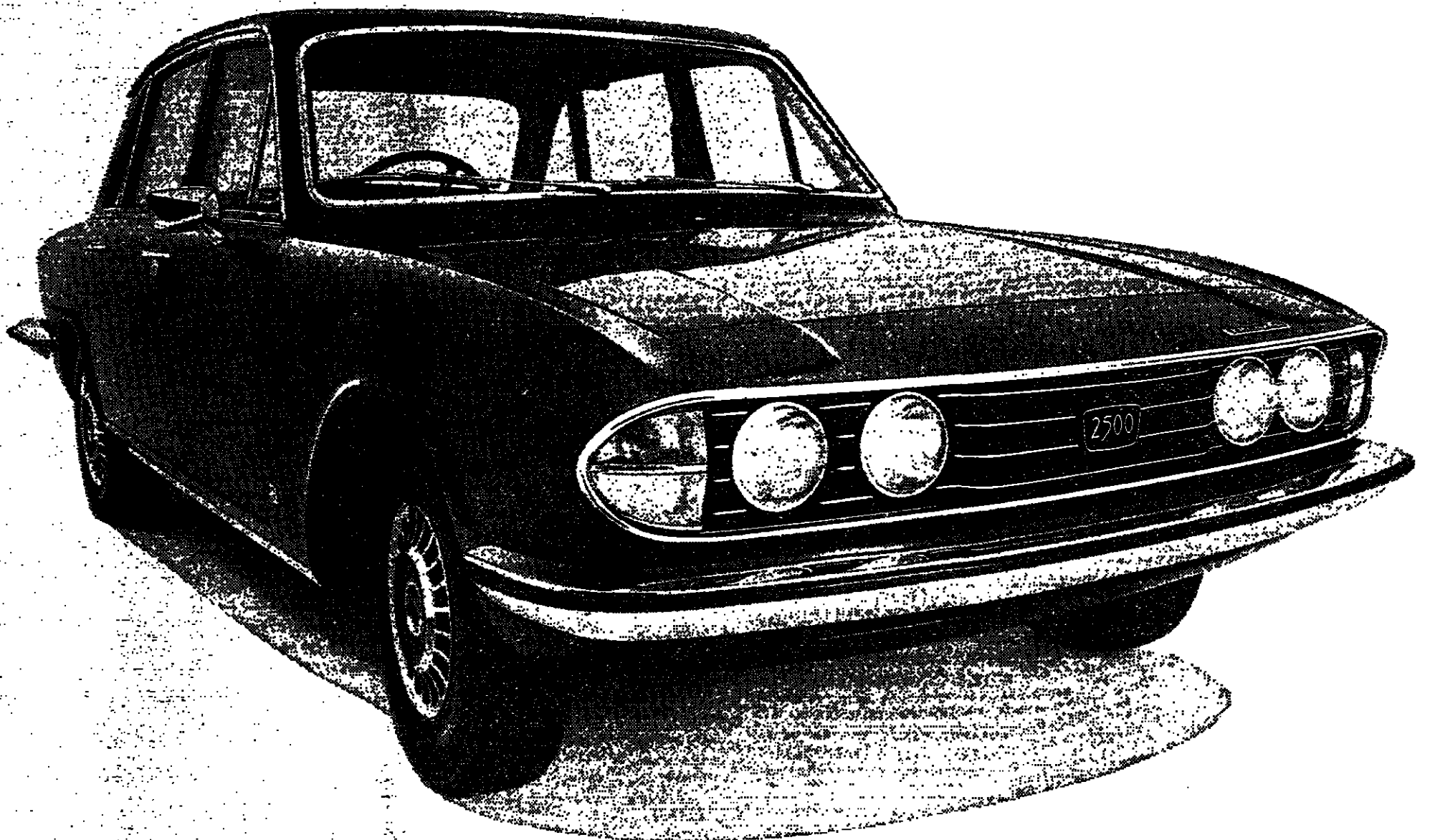
Former civil servant on Poulson charge

Alfred John Merritt, aged 71, formerly regional officer for the Ministry of Health, in Leeds, was charged yesterday at Pontefract with conspiring with John Poulson, the former architect, now in jail, corruptly to receive gifts. He will appear in court today.

Mr Merritt, of West Park, Leeds, retired in 1968.

For anyone torn between the Triumph 2000 and a 2.5 PI.

The new Triumph 2500 TC.



Mandies rape of Princess Anne's secretary

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

Christopher John Graham, aged 18, Wilton Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, will "strenuously deny" raping Princess Anne's private secretary, his solicitor said at Manchester City Magistrates' Court yesterday.

After Mr Graham, who is alleged to have raped Miss Penelope Jan Walters, aged 23, at her flat in Chelsea last March, had been committed for trial to Manchester Crown Court, Mr Michael Blackburn, for the defence, said: "I would point out that when Graham was charged with having intercourse with her he replied: 'She agreed'."

Mr David Gandy, for the prosecution, said it would be alleged that Mr Graham had used a knife to achieve his purpose.

Mr Graham is also accused of raping and robbing Mrs Joan Routledge, a doctor's wife, and robbing and attempting to rape Manijah Shoroughi, a Persian student. He is further charged with robbing Miss Walters and Miss Helen Mary Moxley, his flat mate, of cash and jewelry, altogether valued at £210.

Mr Graham, who asked for press restrictions to be lifted, did not apply for bail.

Sex blackmailer failed for two years

A man who tried to blackmail an author, Mr Bryan Campbell-Kemp, was sent to prison yesterday for two years.

John Buchan Malcolm, aged 29, alleged that Mr Kemp tried to seduce the daughter of a pop music personality, picked up girls at the Ritz Hotel, and made one girl pregnant. The allegations were completely untrue, the prosecution said at the Central Criminal Court.

When the allegations were made to Mr Kemp he immediately told the police, and when the blackmail threat was repeated at the Ritz Hotel he had a tape recorder hidden on him. Detectives mingling with customers then appeared.

Originally Mr Malcolm, of Friern Park, Muswell Hill, denied the charge but he changed his plea yesterday.

Alexander Mitchell, aged 34, of The Burrows, Hendon, who waited outside the Ritz Hotel in a car to pick up Mr Malcolm, denied an attempted blackmail charge and was acquitted on the judge's order. Robert Neal, aged 31, of Barnard Hill, Muswell Hill, who pleaded guilty, was given an 18-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, and fined £150.

Cod, lemons, tomatoes and strawberries cheaper

Cod, lemons, tomatoes and strawberries have all become cheaper in the past week, and a casserole of the first three, followed by the fourth, would make an acceptable meal for a hot weekend.

Cod filets have dropped below 40p a pound in most areas and steaks cost about 40p. Haddock is falling more slowly and some filets still cost more than 50p a pound. A few weeks ago both these fish were fetching about 55p a pound.

Some good mackerel are being landed and have dropped to 21p to 24p a pound in shops. Herrings are steady and skate and rock salmon are still quite expensive. A few fishmongers have Canadian salmon at 50p to 51.20 a pound. Competition to cut prices is growing among supermarkets: the cheapest frozen broiler this weekend is likely to cost 19p a pound. Several multiple shops are selling them for 21p. Fresh birds are available from 24p to 28p a pound.

Prices of roasting beef are very steady, with roasts from 64p a pound and brisket at 23p to 25p. Far too many people want steaks at present. At a really good price, Scottish pump costs more than 51.05 a pound, the best available in January. Filet is more than 40p. Chops are also dear, with pork at 55p a pound or more and English lamb at about 75p.

Roastings are still a cheap option.

Food prices

Hugh Clayton

buy for those who must have roasts meat on Sundays, and there is plenty of New Zealand lamb. Shoulders of 1974 English lamb cost about 38p a pound; whole legs on the bone are about 10p or 15p more.

Strawberries have dropped to 50p a pound for home-grown and 40p for those from France and Italy. Asparagus has fallen sharply to about 40p a pound although the finest home-grown shoots will cost much more. Avocados have risen by a penny or two to a minimum of 16p each.

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection predicts a cut of 1p or 2p each for lemons. Cherries are appearing at about 36p a pound. Bananas and mushrooms are falling, but mushrooms, cauliflower have risen by about 3p each.

Tomatoes start at 16p a pound and celery has dropped a penny or two to a minimum of 15p a head. Spinach, onions and radishes are steady at 9p or more a bunch and new potatoes have settled at 7p to 14p a pound. Courgettes are well worth buying at 36p to 42p a pound, a slight drop from last week.

The Triumph 2500 TC is a different car. And, it's also a very impressive answer to a problem exercising many motoring minds at the present time.

Namely, how to arrange luxury, economy, and performance in just the right proportions for you.

The Triumph 2500 TC is a car with all the smoothness and style traditionally associated with the Triumph 2000 - exhilarated by the extra performance that comes with an engine 25% larger.

The result is a five-seater, six-cylinder luxury car that achieves 0 to 50 mph in 8.5 seconds.

And it returns around 33 mpg at a steady 50.

In short we've added zip.

But we've kept the millions the motorist spends on fuel very much in mind.

The Triumph 2500 TC sets new high

standards of comfort and safety for driver and passengers too. And these new standards are being applied right across the Triumph six-cylinder range.

Look what we're offering: Reclining front seats in corded Bri-Nylon or 'breathing' vinyl - now with optional head restraints.

New style at-a-glance instruments and a control layout appropriate to the high standards Triumph have already established in this field.

Among the impressive refinements are a seat belt warning light for driver and front seat passenger, (fitted for the first time to a British production saloon) and the famous Triumph 8-light warning system to keep tabs on every aspect of performance.

Traditional Triumph deep pile carpets and non-glare walnut veneer fascia complete the luxury touches for which this range has

already gained an enviable reputation.

And childproof door locks, hazard warning lights, and a specially designed driver's rear view mirror complete this new concept in six-cylinder safety.

The new Triumph 2500 TC, the 2.5 PI and the Triumph 2000 are all designed for discerning motorists who appreciate the benefits of six-cylinder motoring. Could you be one of them?

Rover Triumph, British Leyland UK Ltd, Coventry. Tel: 0203-75511.

Triumph



HOME NEWS

Stronger public voice in new NHS is Government's aim

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

The voice of the public should be heard much more strongly in the reorganized National Health Service, the Government has decided. Among the proposals in a consultative document published yesterday is the one that community health councils must be developed into a powerful forum for the views of users of the NHS.

At least two members of district councils, which represent about 29 million of the electorate, should have seats on each area health authority, the Government says. A national council should be set up to advise and help the community health councils.

In order immediately to strengthen the councils (only about a quarter of which have so far been formed), the Government has suggested that because of the important part the secretaries will play the posts ought to be filled by open competition; spokesmen for district management teams, the small groups of senior health officers responsible to area authorities for most of the health services, should attend council meetings and answer questions in public; and councils should have the power to object to the closing of hospitals.

But if a council objects to a closure it should be expected to make detailed and constructive counter-proposals.

These immediate changes will be made as soon as possible. Comments on the other proposals are required from interested organizations by the end of July.

The Government also wants a third of the members of each regional and area health

authority to be members of local authorities. Each community health council should elect two members to each area authority; and two members drawn from the staff of the NHS, other than doctors and nurses, who are already represented, should serve on each of these authorities and also on each regional health authority.

Dr David Owen, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday that the proposals were the outcome of criticisms that the reorganization of the NHS was too oriented towards management and not linked sufficiently with local opinion.

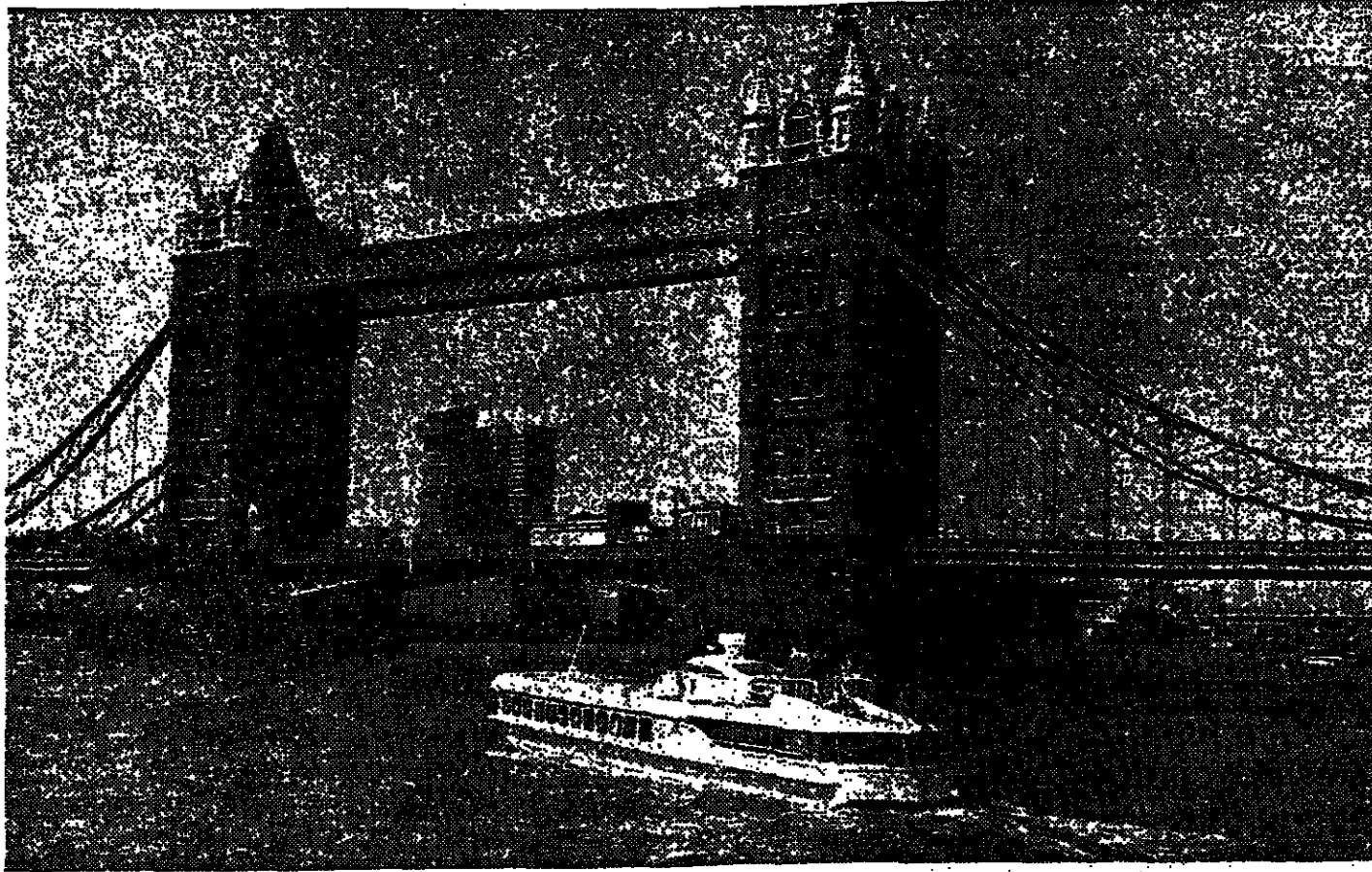
In a statement accompanying the document Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, says the "fairly tight" timetable, requiring comments by the end of July, has been set because "we want to get moving on the issue".

The proposals affect only England. Separate proposals for Scotland and Wales will be published later.

The paper also adds that the Government is considering the Kilbrandon Report on the Constitution, which could affect regional government. Because that might affect the health service, detailed changes in the regional health authorities are not proposed.

The membership of the area health authorities will be re-examined in three years' time, when the tenure of current members ends.

The introduction to the paper says the Government is acutely aware of the uncertainties and stresses staff in the NHS are inevitably facing at present, and has no wish to add to them. Democracy in the NHS (Stationery Office, 11p).



A Russian hydrofoil, the Raketka, approaching Tower Bridge yesterday during its inaugural trip on the Thames. It is intended that five will be operating a commuter service on the river by the end of the year. Daily, page 16.

Upper Avon to be reopened to navigation after a century and planners safeguard use of London canal
Supporters of waterways see cause for hopeBy John Young
Planning Reporter

It would be difficult to find two more dissimilar stretches of water than the Upper Avon, flowing through the heart of Shakespeare country, and Rainham Creek, oozing past an industrial estate in the East End of London. But both are giving champions of inland waterways fresh hope that at long last the tide may be turning in their favour.

Tomorrow Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will officially reopen the Upper Avon to navigation, almost exactly a century since it fell into disrepair. The restoration has been carried out by the Upper Avon Navigation Trust. Volunteers, Servicemen, trusted prisoners and boral boys worked on the project, and more than £300,000 was raised through a series of appeals, including £100,000 from an anonymous donor.

Rainham Creek assumed significance last week when, for the first time, the Greater London Council refused planning permission for an industrial development on the ground that

it would not be exploiting the commercial potential of a water-front site.

Mr Norman Howard, chairman of the council's planning committee, indicated that that was likely to become a general principle. "Our policy is to use London's waterways as an integral part of the transport system and, where possible, to get commercial traffic off the roads and on to the waterways," he said.

Two days later, Mr Howell, Minister of State for the Environment, which responsibility for sport, took up the theme in the Commons. "We ought not to be closing down those for privately owned waterways such as the Manchester Ship Canal, which operates at a profit, but the annual total for all waterborne freight in Britain is probably no more than about 40 million tons."

Waterway advocates reply

that the only reason the system is in decline is precisely that no money has been spent on it.

If waterways are old-fashioned, their supporters ask, why is it that nearly all European countries have invested in huge new arteries to carry long-distance bulk cargoes? Freight carried by canal in The Netherlands increased from 151 million tons in 1963 to 245 million tons in 1971, and in West Germany from 167 million tons to 230 million tons in the same period.

By contrast, traffic on British Waterways Board waterways fell during the same period from nine million to 5,500,000 tons. Those figures do not include those for privately owned waterways such as the Manchester Ship Canal, which operates at a profit, but the annual total for all waterborne freight in Britain is probably no more than about 40 million tons.

last month produced a report entitled *Barges or Juggernauts?*, estimates that one 500-ton barge can carry the same amount of bulk cargo, such as coal, cement or grain, as 35 heavy articulated lorries.

The report called for the establishment of a new inland shipping division within either the Department of the Environment or the Department of Trade. Mr. Mulley, Minister of Transport, is said to be giving the report his urgent attention.

If anything is likely to save the waterways board from extinction, it is the introduction of barge-carrying ships. Three different systems are in operation, enabling a barge to be loaded at an inland canal or river side wharf, towed to the coast and loaded on to a ship, which transports it to an overseas port. The association believes there is no contradiction between commercial and leisure use of waterways. On recreational use, it feels that previous governments have dragged their feet, making encouraging noises but not providing any money. Local authorities have, with a few exceptions, been equally parsimonious.

WEST EUROPE

Fiat chief warns Italy it is on the verge of economic collapse

From John Earle
Rome, May 30

Signor Gianni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat, today said that Italy had only a few months in which to start putting its house in order if it was to avoid the risk of political and economic collapse.

He said bankruptcy brought political as well as economic consequences. When there was a choice between hunger and liberty, it was always liberty that was in danger. "Both these prospects are on the horizon in Italy today," he added.

Signor Agnelli was giving his inaugural address as president of the private industrialists' confederation, *Confindustria*, having succeeded Signor Renato Lombardi, the Piedmontese textile industrialist. His almost unanimous election, by 4,818 votes with 25 blank ballot papers and none against, reflects the importance attached by private industry to having a competent pilot steer through the present crisis. Italy faces its most difficult period for decades, Signor Agnelli said. "The next six months will be worse. The economic situation is very grave, but even more dangerous are the economic, political and social system and the environment in which we operate."

It was of little use for the Government to introduce austerity measures, he said, or to exhort the nation to consume less and produce more, to export more and to keep prices and wages claims down. These did not strike at the root of the evil.

He criticized the Government for hamstringing private industry, for bureaucratic inefficiency and for abstract economic planning.

Private enterprise was deprived of the means to earn its own cash flow, and the relationship between resources and indebtedness was so bad that many Italian companies' shares would not be admitted for bourse quotation in many

foreign countries. The overall result was "a waste without precedent in human and material resources".

There was a way out, but new approaches were needed. It was not enough to rely on the central bank monetary weapon. A serious policy of industrial planning was needed and the prospects for attracting foreign investment should be discussed with employers' organizations abroad.

He said he was calling a meeting of heads of *Confindustria* regional associations within a few weeks to plan strategy. There was short because inflation did not permit delay.

Beyond a certain point, inflation brought a chain reaction which overthrew the economic and social structures of life. "It appears that Italy is approaching this dangerous threshold."

Signor Emilio Colombo, the Treasury Minister, in another pessimistic statement, said that inflation would at its present rate reach 20 per cent by the end of this year.

The total of foreign loans was now above the level of reserves. At the end of 1973 foreign indebtedness stood at about 3,000,000 million lire (about £2,000m) against reserves of 3,292,000 million lire, over half of which was in gold.

In the first four months of this year, the balance of payments had shown an average deficit of about £300,000 million lire a month, and a further 2,600,000 million lire worth of loans were contracted.

Foreign indebtedness had a limit, depending on a country's creditworthiness abroad. The limit was not a real possibility because of the grave crisis in the balance of payments.

To combat this danger, it would be necessary to take about 2,500,000 million or 3,000,000 million lire from the market. The Government had already introduced some measures, of which the import deposit scheme was the latest. Now, he forecast, further taxation would be necessary.

Plans to safeguard workers' rights in takeovers

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, May 30

The rights of employees in the European Community who are made redundant simply because of a change in company ownership would be safeguarded under new plans announced in Brussels today.

The adoption by member states of draft legislation prepared by the European Commission would be of particular significance in Britain, where workers at present have limited legal redress if they forfeit their jobs or essential rights and benefits from a company takeover or merger.

The Commission's plans would place heavy obligations on both old and new employers to consult workers fully before a transfer of ownership takes place. Not surprisingly, these ideas have been generally welcomed by European trade union representatives, but given a cooler reception by employers' organizations.

Announcing the Commission's plans at a press conference in Brussels, Dr. Patrick Hillery, the Commissioner for social affairs, said responsibility for employer-employee relationship would be transferred automatically from one company to another when there was a change of ownership. This would avoid situations where workers had either lost their jobs or suffered unfairly as a result of company takeovers.

At present only West Germany, France, Italy and Luxembourg have passed special legislation to safeguard workers' rights in the event of a merger or takeover bid. In the rest of the Community, including Britain and Ireland, there are no precise guarantees in law to protect a worker's employment contract in such cases.

English church's last days
Postreting, May 30.—The 100-year-old English church in the Swiss resort village is being pulled down because there are no more British tourists.

Officials said the church was built in 1875, the last service was held in 1965, and the building was sold to the community in 1967. A block of flats is to be built on the site.—UPI.

Italy to ease car rules
Rome, May 30.—A decision by authorities to drop Sunday driving restrictions through summer and to relax other energy saving measures is expected to be formally approved next week.—AP

Herr Schmidt in Berlin restates policy on East

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, May 30

Herr Helmut Schmidt today paid his first visit to Berlin as West German Chancellor. In an address to workers at a factory he said that he considered it one of his prime duties to discuss the problems of the city with the Senate.

He said: "We stick to the policy of détente towards the East that ensures the city its viability. We want to reach an orderly understanding with East Germany on the basis of the four power agreement and the basic treaty."

Britain and Spain resume talks on Gibraltar

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, May 30

British and Spanish diplomats today began exploratory talks on Gibraltar in Madrid, as the result of a British initiative. The discussions at the Spanish Foreign Ministry continued throughout the day.

Spokesmen for both Governments described the talks as non-committal, adding that official Notes issued in London and Madrid said they were in response to a United Nations General Assembly resolution of last December, which expressed "hope" that negotiations on Gibraltar would soon be resumed.

A spokesman for the British Embassy pointed out that the British delegation at the United Nations had objected to the word "negotiations" in the text of the resolution, preferring "consultations". Sir John Russell, the Ambassador to Spain, delivered a document to the Foreign Ministry in Madrid on April 11 proposing such "consultations". On May 3 the Spanish Government accepted the proposal. The United Nations resolution of last December called for a progress report to be delivered to the General Assembly by the end of this year.

The technical staff of the Foreign Ministry, and Señor Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordoba, Director of West European Affairs. The British delegation consisted of Sir John Killick, Under-Secretary of State in charge of European Affairs, Mr. Alan Goodison, Director of Southern European Affairs, Sir John Russell, Mr. Robert Wade-Gery, Minister at the British Embassy, and Mr. Michael Ackison, Head of Chancery in Madrid.

The basic positions of the two Governments are believed to be the same as they were when last year's talks were broken off. Spanish seeks recognition of its sovereignty over the territory, while Britain maintains that no solution can be reached without taking into account the interests of the Gibraltarians themselves. Some diplomatic observers in Madrid have suggested that as both the British and the Spanish Cabinets have been changed since the last round of conversations, both might be interested in making "soundings" to determine if they can find some common ground for discussion which might have been overlooked or rejected by their predecessors.

A commentary by the London correspondent of the Madrid newspaper ABC, said: "Considering the diplomatic climate which one senses in London, these new 'soundings' will have as much practical value as a stroll through Madrid's Retiro Park on a spring morning—sunshine, a romantic sigh and a photograph before leaving."

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Rising pressure to call off pensions hold-up

By Our Social Services
Correspondent

The Civil and Public Services Association faces mounting pressure to call off its ban on uprating pensions and other benefits as it goes into talks with the TUC today. Age Concern today attacks the union's action as "deplorable", and Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, has been asked by the Pensioners' Federation of Old Age Pensioners to settle the dispute.

Mr. David Hobman, director of Age Concern, says in a statement today that it will be a farce if the whole social contract disintegrates because of a relatively minor industrial dispute. The union is asking for a bonus for the extra work involved. The staff have been given 17 weeks to complete the exercise, compared with 29 weeks last year. The union says it would need 23 weeks to do the job, but has admitted privately that if the dispute is settled within the next few days there would still be time to complete the uprating by July 22.

Social security costs are 587 below establishment and they have been faced with an unprecedented amount of legislation in the past four years. Increases due on July 22 will affect not only the 26 million retirement pensioners but more than three million other people drawing unemployment and sick pay, the attendance allowance, widows' and invalidity benefits, industrial

and war injury pensions, family income supplement and supplementary benefits.

The operation for pensioners themselves is not a matter of applying an extra £2.25 to single people to take them up to the £10 pension and £3.50 to married couples. To begin with, few pensioners are on the flat-rate retirement pension.

One pensioner in four receives less than the standard rate pension. In addition, 27 per cent of pensioners have an increment to their pension because they continued to work after retirement age.

There are also 1,142,000 pensioners aged 80 and over who qualify for an extra 25p on top of the basic pension, and 125,000 drawing the old person's pension introduced by the Tory Government to cover those who were old or qualified when the national insurance scheme was introduced.

Invalidity allowances, also being increased in July, are paid to 15,000 pensioners and the attendance allowance, also going up in July, to about 26,500. If those calculations are correct, the exercise to increase the benefits of people drawing widows', invalidity, unemployment and sickness benefits is even more so.

New chairman of PEST sees vital party role

By Our Political Staff

Mr. William Shearman, aged 36, a management consultant, has been elected chairman of the Progressive Tory Pressure Group (PEST) in succession to Mr. Keith Raffan. It was announced at the group's annual meeting that Mr. Peter Walker, former Secretary of State for Industry, would continue as a patron. Mr. David Knox, MP, was elected a vice-president.

Mr. Shearman is a former deputy chairman of the group and was for a long time responsible for its research effort. He was Conservative candidate at West Ham, North, in the 1966 and 1970 general elections. Commenting on PEST's role, Mr. Shearman said yesterday: "We must strive to revive the 'One Nation' spirit in the Tory party. Our group can play a vital role in making the doors of the Conservative Party open to a much wider section of the community."

"Our ability to meet present challenges is stifled by antiquated class barriers, which can only lead the nation to confrontation and friction. What is needed is a major rethink in several areas of policy, starting with education."

Hospital view on patients found hanged

The three patients found hanged at Warrington Park mental hospital, near Croydon, were named by the police yesterday as Mr. Joseph Mark Ben-El-Mechaie, aged 35, a Jamaican; Mr. Malano Sikal, aged 32, a Yugoslav; and Mr. Patrick Michael Tubridy, aged 26, British. All are thought to have been at the hospital for some time.

Mr. David Sharpe, principal nursing officer at the hospital, said there was no question of staff conduct being responsible for the deaths. "It could have happened at any time," he said.

Mr. John Cooper, acting general administrator, said he believed the three men were friends. An official of Croydon Health Area Authority said the three deaths were separate incidents.

Student discipline

Four articles on student discipline, by Graeme Moodie, Antony Flew, John Griffith and John Randall, are published today in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. There are also articles on I. A. Richards, medical education, Renford Bambrough, and the career patterns of polytechnic teachers.

WEST EUROPE

Gaullist MPs protest
at M Giscard's
break with tradition

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, May 30

President Giscard d'Estaing's formal message to the Senate and National Assembly today as yet another illustration of the Fifth Republic's break with tradition. To its astonishment, Parliament heard what it thought was right-wing President boldly taking a handful of leaves out of the textbooks of the left and appealing to the France of Adenauer, Mitterrand and De Gaulle. Opposition, he said, could be given a role to play in responsibilities to exercise, through a formal statute, through a change in parliamentary procedure, and by himself "informing its leaders of the factors which determine certain big national decisions, notably in the foreign field". Traditionally, the deputies and to hear the presidential message read out by the Speaker, today M. Edgar Faure, the speaker, said it was the President's desire that they be seated. At this there was a certain amount of protest combined with hilarity on the crowded benches. Both majority and opposition, and M. Faure had to ring his bell three times to restore order.

Minister hopeful
on Europe
farm prospects

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, May 30

Mr Fred Fauré, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said here today that the prospects for changing the European Community's common agricultural policy in Britain's favour were "better than they have ever been before".

Speaking to British correspondents after talks with Administration and congressional leaders, Mr Fauré said American policy-makers felt it was a "better bet" for Britain to try to improve the EEC from the inside than to withdraw.

Britain's aims in trade liberalization were shared by the United States.

on the eve of new times, feels the need for new invention. It is with you, this change must come about."

"France would work for the progressive and rapid organization of European unity" and seek cooperation with other countries on the basis of equal rights. All arms sales contrary to the "freedom and rights of peoples" would be ended.

The presidential message announced that the voting age would be reduced from 21 to 18. The constitution would be amended to allow for ministers (there are 13) to recover their parliamentary seats on leaving office.

A new parliamentary question time is to be instituted. For an hour on Wednesdays the Prime Minister and members of the Government will "answer questions personally and directly".

These changes did not impress M. Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader. "Questions will be answered on Wednesday instead of Friday," he said in the lobby afterwards. "Frenchmen want renewal. Where is it? Certainly not in the fact that we remained seated during the reading of the presidential message."

Last night M. Giscard d'Estaing went on television to explain to the people in simple, direct language the reasons for the composition of the new Government, commenting briefly and elliptically on each minister in turn.

The President left a good deal unsaid when, for instance, he justified M. Chirac's choice by his membership of the Gaullist UDR, the largest party in Parliament which felt more like disowning M. Chirac than acclaiming him until a few days ago.

EEC chiefs to
take new trade
plan to Rome

From Our Overseas
Correspondent
Brussels, May 30

Two members of the European Commission are to travel to Rome on Sunday in a new attempt to persuade the Italian Government to agree to measures aimed at reducing trade disruption in agricultural goods within the EEC.

The commissioners will take with them the Commission's latest plans for limiting the damage caused by Italy's recent decision to cut imports as a means of correcting its balance of payments.

The proposals were adopted by the Commission today after protracted discussions.

Demand for
five years'
jail for
hijackers

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, May 30

A five-year prison sentence has been demanded by Mr J. J. Bredius, the Haarlem public prosecutor, for the young Palestinians who have admitted hijacking and setting fire to a British Airways VC10 aircraft on March 5.

The prosecutor described the act as "perpetrated by the hands of a terrorist organization which is doing the Palestinian cause more harm than good." The two hijackers, who answered questions by a tribunal of judges, seemed relieved when they heard the sentence demanded.

One attempt by the defendants to make a statement in English was interrupted abruptly by Judge J. D. Vink, who said he would tolerate no propaganda in court.

The 52 passengers and crew on board the VC10, on a scheduled flight from Beirut to London, escaped unhurt when the aircraft landed in Amsterdam. The maximum sentence for the offences is 20 years. The tribunal will pass sentence next week.

One of the two Palestinians, Sami Hussein Tamima, aged 22, a former porter from east Jerusalem, told the court that he and Adnan Nur, aged 23, a former vegetable seller from Hebron, had been given strict instructions not to harm the crew or the passengers, unless, in self-defence. "I disapprove of killing," Mr Tamima said.

They had been told two days before the hijacking that their instructions were to take over a British aircraft, fly it to Amsterdam, and destroy it.

Both men admitted that they had been trained at various Palestinian camps in Jordan. By means of photographs they had been instructed about the controls of the VC10.

They were told that they would find the necessary arms and ammunition and explosives stowed under the seats in the fourth row in the VC10 after they boarded it at Beirut. The organization responsible for their training and for the hijacking was the Arab Youth Organization of the Palestinian Peoples.

Captain Geoffrey Crawford, co-pilot of the VC10, told the court that he had seen the two men exchange hand grenades. Professor J. Brugman, of the Department of Arabic Language and Recent Cultural History at Leyden University, called by the defence, said that the two Palestinians were involved in an ideological war on behalf of their people, and that a prison sentence would have no preventive effect on them.

OVERSEAS

Text of Israel-Syria
accord lays down
disengagement timing

Jerusalem, May 30.—The official text of the agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria, which has been distributed by the Israeli Government and is to be signed in Geneva tomorrow, reads:

A. Israel and Syria will scrupulously observe the ceasefire on land, sea and air and will refrain from all military actions against each other from the time of the signing of this document, in implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 338, dated October 22, 1973.

B. The military working group of Israel and Syria will be separated in accordance with the following principles:

1. All Israeli military forces will be west of the line designated as line A on the map attached hereto, except in the Quneitra area, where they will be west of line A1.

2. All territory east of line A will be under Syrian administration and Syrian civilians will return to this territory.

3. The area between line A and the line designated as line B on the attached map will be an area of separation. In this area will be stationed the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, established in accordance with the accompanying protocol.

4. All Syrian military forces will be east of the line designated as line B on the attached map.

5. There will be two equal areas of limitation in armament and forces, one west of line A and one east of line B as agreed upon.

6. In the area between line A and line A1 on the attached map there shall be no military forces.

D. This agreement and the attached map will be signed by the military representatives of Israel and Syria in Geneva not later than May 31, 1974, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

E. The provisions of paragraphs A, B and C shall be inspected by personnel of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force under this agreement.

F. Within 24 hours after the signing of this agreement the signing of this agreement to the implementation of the disengagement of forces will be worked out by military representatives of Israel and Syria in the Egyptian-Israeli military working group.

G. The provisions of paragraphs A, B and C shall be inspected by personnel of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force under this agreement.

H. The bodies of all dead soldiers held by either side will be returned for burial in their respective countries within 10 days after the signing of this agreement.

I. This agreement is not a peace agreement. It is a step toward a just and durable peace on the basis of security council resolution 338 dated October 22, 1973.—Reuter.

Egyptian-Israeli military working group of the Geneva peace conference under the aegis of the United Nations, after that group has been joined by a Syrian military representative, and with the participation of representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The precise delineation of a detailed map and a plan for the implementation of the disengagement of forces will be worked out by military representatives of Israel and Syria in the Egyptian-Israeli military working group.

J. The military working group will start their work for this purpose in the United Nations within 24 hours after the signing of this agreement.

K. The provisions of paragraphs A, B and C shall be inspected by personnel of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force under this agreement.

L. Within 24 hours after the signing of this agreement to the implementation of the disengagement of forces will be worked out by military representatives of Israel and Syria in the Egyptian-Israeli military working group.

M. The bodies of all dead soldiers held by either side will be returned for burial in their respective countries within 10 days after the signing of this agreement.

N. This agreement is not a peace agreement. It is a step toward a just and durable peace on the basis of security council resolution 338 dated October 22, 1973.—Reuter.

Protocol on UN force

Damascus, May 30.—This protocol was attached to the Syria-Israel agreement:

Israel and Syria agree that the role of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) under the agreement will be to exert utmost efforts to maintain the ceasefire and ensure that it is strictly observed.

The force, under the agreement and the protocol attached to it, will supervise the areas of disengagement and limitations (of forces and armament). In undertaking this mission it will observe in general the Syrian laws and regulations in force and will not obstruct the work of the civilian administration.

It will enjoy the freedom of movement and communications and other facilities necessary for its mission.

It will be mobile and provided with personal weapons of a defensive nature. These weapons will not be used except in self-defence.

The strength of the United Nations observation force will be about 1,250 recruited by the United Nations.

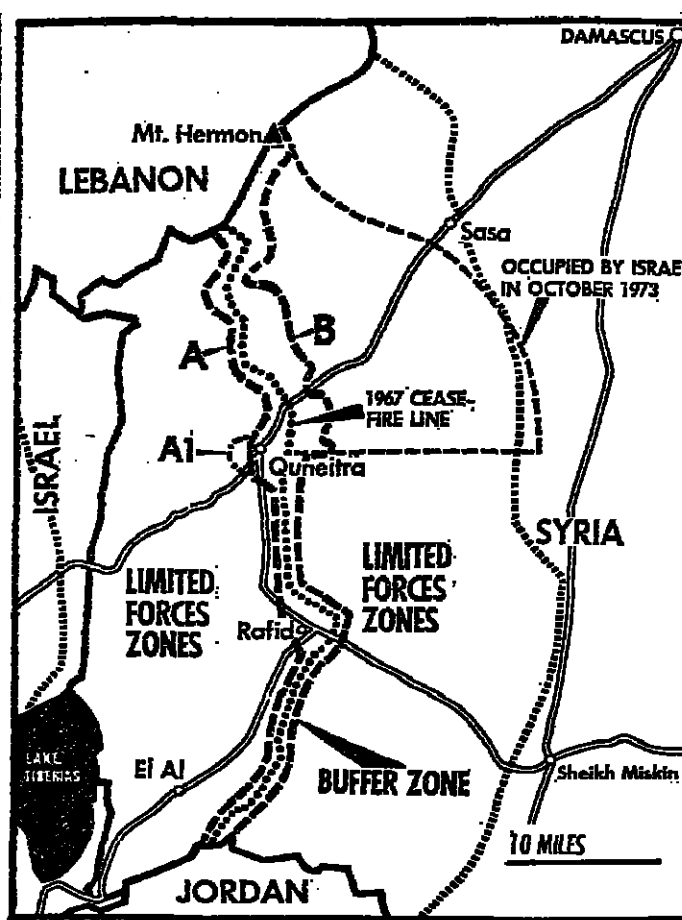
Nations Secretary-General after consultation with the parties from United Nations member countries which are not permanent members of the Security Council.

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force will be under the command of the United Nations Secretary-General and under the authority of the Security Council.

The disengagement observation force will conduct inspection operations under the agreement and submit reports to the parties on a regular basis and no less frequently than once in every 15 days and additionally when requested by either of the two parties.

It will put landmarks on the land of the two opposite lines appearing on the map attached to the agreement.

Israel and Syria will support the Security Council resolution which provides for the creation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force referred to in the agreement. The first term will be for a period of six months subject to renewal by another Security Council resolution.—Reuter.



Disengagement map: Israel and Syria can maintain limited forces on each side of the buffer zone between line A and line B, which will be policed by United Nations observers. The territory in the zone will be under Syrian civilian administration, however, and Israel troops must also remain west of line A1, which creates an enclave round the Quneitra area.

US 'is pledged to support
anti-terrorist actions'

From Moshe Brilliant
Jerusalem, May 30

Mrs Meir, the Prime Minister, told the Parliament today that the United States promised Israel political support for anti-terrorist measures after the Golan Heights disengagement.

Responsible Israelis regarded this as an undertaking to veto United Nations Security Council motions for sanctions against Israel for possible punitive actions against terrorists.

After a nine hours debate, the Knesset by 76 votes to 36 ratified the disengagement agreement and cleared the way for the formal signature tomorrow in Geneva.

A Likud Opposition motion approving a separation of forces agreement, but criticising the terms negotiated by the Government, was defeated by 67 votes to 33.

Mr Dayan, the Defence Minister, disclosed that Syrian forces in the 10-kilometre limited force zone would be reduced from 40,000 to 6,000 men, 400 tanks to 75, and 500 guns to 36.

Mr Ariel Sharon, of Likud, said this did not really represent a separation of forces. He recalled that, as a general in the

Yom Kippur war, he had led his men to the Suez Canal for a distance of 30 kilometres in two hours.

Paul Martin writes from Beirut: Syria's ruling Baath Party tonight endorsed the disengagement accord reached between Syria and Israel. The endorsement emphasized that the separation of forces must be followed by Israel's withdrawal from all Golan and recognition of Palestinian rights.

Versions of the agreement released today make no mention of watertight guarantees that such a withdrawal must follow disengagement. However, Dr Kissinger is known to have given secret assurances to the Israelis and, if the Suez disengagement agreement is followed, similar assurances may have been given to Syria.

President Sadat of Egypt described Dr Kissinger's latest feat as "another miracle". He said in Cairo: "We welcome the visit of President Nixon to Egypt as a further step towards consolidating our relations."

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Leading article, page 17

Mr Kollek
foresees
withdrawal
in Sinai

By Louis Heren

Dr Henry Kissinger believes that the Syria-Israel agreement will encourage Egypt to continue negotiations with Israel, according to Mr Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem. Mr Kollek also said in London yesterday that this was one reason Israel agreed to disengage its forces on the Golan Heights.

He thought the next step might well be further negotiations with Egypt for another Israel withdrawal in Sinai. The Israel Government was prepared to withdraw completely from the peninsula eventually, but in stages.

It was ready now to negotiate a partial withdrawal which could return the oil fields to Egypt, although they provided Israel with about 75 per cent of her fuel requirements. It was hoped that Egypt would agree to Israel leasing Sharm el-Sheikh.

Mr Kollek said that Jerusalem would be the last item on the agenda. Nothing could be done before the future of the West Bank was decided, and conflicting views in Jordan suggested that negotiations could be long delayed.

The status of Jerusalem was not negotiable, Mr Kollek said. "Now that the Jews have got Jerusalem they cannot give it up without losing their soul."

Internationalization would be a bad solution, and division was out of the question. In any event, the Arabs in Jerusalem already had functional independence.

They enjoyed a greater degree of physical security, prosperity and freedom of expression than citizens of Arab countries. They had their own schools, they could attend Arab universities, and he was encouraging a Catholic-sponsored Arab university in Bethlehem.

They had freedom of movement. They could visit Arab countries and receive relatives and friends from those countries. They had everything, except the right to be their own masters.

He understood how this could rankle, but they had been occupied for hundreds of years by the Turks, the British, the Bedu from Jordan and now Israel. He knew many Arabs who hoped for eventual independence, but not just now.

The holy places were administered by Muslim and Christian bodies. The one Muslim holy place was also holy for Jews, which could be a complication. "But we cannot rebuild the temple before the return of the Messiah," Mr Kollek said. "This chance the Arabs will have to take."



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OVERSEAS

Supreme Court is urged by Nixon lawyers not to hurry decision over White House tapes subpoena

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, May 30 President Nixon's lawyers asked the Supreme Court today not to make a "hasty determination" on whether the President should submit to a subpoena for White House tapes. They said it would be far better for the President's appeal against a court ruling upholding the subpoena to "run its orderly course" through the district appeals court.

Mr Leon Jaworski, the Watergate special prosecutor, who wants the 64 tapes to prepare his case against the seven men indicted for the Watergate cover-up, and also possibly to help them prepare their defence, took the case straight to the Supreme Court when Mr Nixon appealed against the lower court's ruling.

He claimed that the material was essential and that the trial, due to begin on September 9, would have to be postponed if the matter ground its way through the appeals court and then went to the Supreme Court.

Mr Nixon's lawyers have said that, if they lose the case on appeal, as they lost a tapes case last year, they would take it to the Supreme Court. Mr Jaworski wants to save time by going there directly, and unkind commentators suggest that Mr Nixon's main purpose in opposing the move is a desire to delay matters as long as possible. The court will now examine the question and will announce in due course whether it will take the case. The President's brief was signed by Mr Nixon's principal Watergate lawyer, Mr James St Clair, and by Professor Charles Wright of the University of Texas, who contributes his constitutional knowledge to the President's side.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives judiciary committee, which is preparing a report on the possibility of impeaching the President, informed him today that refusing to obey its subpoenas "might constitute a ground for impeachment".

In a vote of 28 to 10 (nine Republicans and one extreme

Democrat), the committee advised the President that it will feel free to conclude that he is hiding evidence harmful to his cause by continuing to ignore subpoenas for Watergate tapes and documents.

The letter states: "In meeting their constitutional responsibilities, committee members will be free to consider whether your refusals require the drawing of adverse inferences concerning the substance of the materials, and whether your refusals in and of themselves might constitute the ground for impeachment."

There are 18 Republican members of the committee and the nine of them who opposed sending the letter did so for the most part, because they thought its terms rather too harsh, not because they support the President's refusal to honour the many subpoenas he has been sent.

If Mr Jaworski sets the tapes, he will pass on anything he considers relevant to the judiciary committee.

Bernard Levin, page 16

Mr Heath curtails Hongkong visit

From David Bonavia

Sian, May 30 Mr Heath is curtailing his visit to Hongkong at the end of his tour of China. I understand that he plans to fly back to London from Hongkong on Sunday evening, arriving in time for the Commons debate on Northern Ireland.

However, there appears to be no intention of curtailing Mr Heath's visit to China. In view of the exceptionally warm reception which he was given in Peking, to do so would be a discourtesy to his hosts, including Mr Chiao Kuan-hua, the Deputy Foreign Minister, who is accompanying him on his provincial tour.

Messages flew between London, Peking and Sian, this ancient capital city of north-western China, today as Mr Heath ascertained the situation in London and Belfast. Despite a late start he did not cut his programme of sightseeing, which included an enamelware factory, the fine provincial museum, and an ancient seven-storey pagoda known as the "Big Goose".

Cheering crowds again lined the streets as happened in Shanghai yesterday despite pouring rain. In Shanghai he spent the forenoon cruising on the Whangpoo river and viewing the extensive dockyards where ships from all parts of the world were anchored. Bad weather delayed the flight of

Mr Heath and his party in a Trident jet airliner to Sian, capital of Shensi province, where the crowds turned out with drums and cymbals to welcome him. The provincial revolutionary committee last night gave a banquet in Mr Heath's honour followed by a song and dance performance.

This afternoon the British party fly on to Kunming, in Yunnan province, an area rarely opened to visitors from the west. Tomorrow they proceed to Canton from where they will leave for Hongkong by rail on Sunday.

In Hongkong Mr Heath will meet members of the Legislative and Executive Councils before leaving for London on Sunday evening.

Jaworski aides in ITT case resign

From Fred Emery

Washington, May 30

The first serious sign of dissonance among Mr Leon Jaworski's staff with the special prosecutor's conduct of the Watergate prosecutions has come with the unexplained resignations of three young lawyers. The three men constituted the "task force" investigating and prosecuting criminal allegations in the case of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT). Mr Joseph Connelly, the senior of the three, resigned suddenly last week, and reports that he was dismissed. Mr Jaworski had allowed Richard Kleinfelder to plead guilty to a minor crime.

Mr Kleinfelder, during confirmation hearings in the Senate before he became Mr Nixon's second Attorney General in early 1972, lied under oath. But instead of being prosecuted for perjury—a felony—he was allowed, in return for his cooperation with the prosecution, to plead guilty to the misdemeanor of failing to answer "accurately and fully".

He faces a minimum sentence of one month in prison. But the Justice Dept. has not yet set a date for sentencing him.

This leniency has caused widespread adverse comment to the effect that the big fish are getting away with it while the small fry suffer. Mr Dwight Chapin, the senior of the two presidential appointments secretaries, got a minimum of 10 months for perjury.

Mr Jaworski's spokesman refused to comment about the reasons for Mr Connelly's resignation, but said yesterday that Mr Connelly's two assistants had also resigned. The spokesman said they gave no reasons. All this is out of character for the tightly knit and up to now spirited staff which—in spite of Professor Cox's dismissal by the President last October—had stayed to a man with Mr Jaworski.

There are 38 lawyers in a staff of 79, and Mr Jaworski has recently been publicly praising their youth, dedication and mature assumption of awesome responsibilities. Today there is tension apparent among the staff.

But Mr Jaworski is very tough. He has no truck with White House nonsense, as he has shown. And if—as has been suggested—some of the staff had tried holding their resignations as a pistol to his head, it would be entirely in character for him to have called their bluff.

Two die after drinking match in Florida

Fort Walton Beach, Florida, May 29.—Mr Walter Wade and Mr Eugene Cole, both in their 30s, each consumed more than two bottles of pure gin in a bar here during a drinking match. Mr Wade was found by police in the street and died several hours later in jail. Mr Cole died without regaining consciousness—Agence France-Press.

Labourers missing after Frelimo destroys farm

Beira, May 30.—Thirty Africans are believed to have been kidnapped after a guerrilla attack on a Portuguese-owned cotton plantation in northern Mozambique last night, it was disclosed today. Sources in Inhambina, a major railway station on the line linking Beira with the Tete district and the Malawi border, said the plantation was 5 miles west of their town and 93 miles north of Beira. They said the entire crop was destroyed by Frelimo guerrillas, together with the camp housing the African labour force, two cotton stores and a motor vehicle. The 30 missing Africans comprise the entire labour force. The area round Inhambina has been a major target of Frelimo guerrillas since January 1, at least 20 white-owned farms are reported to have been attacked there. When Frelimo stepped up their offensive, after the first week in May, trains were blown

Tireless old man on trail of President

From Colin Webb

Portland, Oregon, May 30

Mr Wayne Morse is on the trail of Mr Nixon again and smelling blood. At 73, after his sweeping victory in the Democratic Senate primary in Oregon on Wednesday, he is preparing a vast campaign against the President.

In the November election he will face Senator Bob Packwood, the Republican to whom he lost his seat in 1968 after 24 years in the Senate. The issue then was Vietnam. This time it will be Watergate and honesty in government.

The tireless old man campaigned ceaselessly during the primary on the dangers of the White House. Congress and the courts. His paltry sheet slogan read: "As always, I shall work and fight for integrity in government." He rubbed in this intention by telling reporters after his victory: "I am sent back to the Senate, I am going to pick up where I left off. This is the worst news for President Nixon that anyone could send to him."

Mr Morse was an early and outspoken critic of the Vietnam war. He has enriched parties twice, but parties mean less in Oregon than the people and the policies they represent.

By defeating Mr Jason Roe, who campaigned mainly on a message that Mr Morse has shown that people of Oregon at least appear to be more concerned with Watergate than local interests.

Despite his advanced years and his insistence that he would say "no" to the Senate for only one term, he is being talked about as a possible future presidential candidate.

The next Senate term, Mr Morse says, is the only one he wants to serve and it will be crucial in American history.

He is now setting up a campaign to determine the destiny of the

United States for the next 25 years. He has called for the kind of representation in Congress that will repair the nation's checks and balances.

"There must be power in Congress to override Nixon's vetoes," he said. He pointed to the danger of growing distrust by outside interests in government and gave a warning that Congressional votes are not as free as they were 10 years ago. Noting the huge contribution from oil interests to Mr Nixon's campaign, Mr Morse said that the nation was not dealing with a free man in Mr Nixon. To believe the contrary, he said, was "pressing the matter of human behaviour beyond reality."

He also claimed that while his age was seen as a political liability by his opponent it was in fact an investment of knowledge and experience. He campaigned against high defence spending, increased presidential powers, and a weak Congress. His reputation for integrity is reinforced by the public memory that he once made the Washington Post's list of the nation's most honest public officials.

Senator William Fulbright, who lost his primary in Arkansas, said of Mr Morse: "He is a very able man and besides, he has been so Washington lately. Voters are dissatisfied with Washington."

Mr Morse told Oregon voters that the President should be impeached because of the confessions he has already made in the Watergate affair. The current political era is the most corrupt one in the history of the United States since the Civil War and perhaps before," he railed.

The President has faced many attacks from the young in the past—now he may have to face a stronger one led by an old man.

New all-purpose satellite launched in Florida

By Pearce Wright

Science Correspondent

A new type of communications satellite, described by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) as the most powerful of its kind developed, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday.

It will be used for a diverse range of practical applications, including long-range medical consultations and the broadcasting of agricultural and family planning advice to villages in India. It also will carry out a complicated programme of experiments to test materials and radio equipment for more advanced telecommunications spacecraft.

The new satellite, known as ATS-6, is a "communications" satellite, will hover for one year above the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific before being moved to a position above Lake Victoria, in Kenya.

From its first station, communications can be established by radio with two locations in North America. This ability will be used to connect remote places in Alaska, the Rocky

Mountains and the Appalachians into existing telecommunications networks developed for health and social services and for education.

Five villages in Alaska have clinics and are transmitting physiological information and clinical records as well as voice and vision signals to specialist medical centres.

When it is moved next June, the ATS-6 spacecraft will provide a relay station for communication between any two sites on the Indian subcontinent. Under a special agreement with Nasa, the Indian Government is conducting a daily four-hour experiment over a period of 12 months called "satellite in-structural television".

The idea is to broadcast to 5,000 villages and cities via aerials designed specifically for individual television set reception but constructed for simplicity from chicken wire.

Programmes will concentrate on improved agricultural techniques, family planning and hygiene, school instruction and teacher education, and development of occupational skills.

Official escapes kidnappers in leap from house

St Denis, Réunion, May 30.—The assistant prosecutor in Réunion Island, M Gérard Nedelec, last night jumped amid a hail of bullets from a house here in which he was being held hostage, it was reported today. M Nedelec, who got away unhurt, had been kidnapped earlier in front of his own home by a gang of eight men. After the escape police stormed the house and arrested all the kidnappers. Later the police said the ring-leader was Yvon Poudroux, whose son had been charged recently with manslaughter. Some months ago M Poudroux, an Island Revenue employee, went on hunger strike in France, southern France, to obtain a posting back to Réunion. In his return he tried to set up a new political party and was charged recently with embezzlement—Agence France-Press.

Mrs Furtseva ignores reports of disavowal

Moscow, May 30.—Mrs Yekaterina Furtseva, the Soviet Minister of Culture, indicated today that she would be a candidate for reelection to the Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament, despite rumours that she has fallen out of favour. However, Mrs Furtseva declined to discuss reports that she was no longer to be used for her position to construct a luxurious country house near Moscow. According to Soviet sources, Mrs Furtseva, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, was called before the party's Control Commission last month and reprimanded for using her position to obtain construction materials for the dacha at wholesale prices. Her husband, a 40,000 roubles (about £2,000 at the official exchange rate). She repaid the money to the state soon after appearing before the commission. But the sources asserted that the dacha issue appeared to have been an excuse to criticise Mrs Furtseva and perhaps pave the way for her demotion—AP.

Miss Lestor in discussion on Rhodesia sanctions

Lusaka, May 30.—Miss Joan Lestor, the British Minister specialising in African affairs, left here for London today after talks with President Kenneth Kaunda and other Zambian leaders on making Rhodesia more effective against sanctions against Rhodesia more effective after political changes in Portugal. During the talks the two sides discussed the effect of a possible border blockade by Mozambique against Rhodesia and noted that it would deny Rhodesia the use of the Portuguese territory's pipeline and railway to the sea, informed sources said. Another possible sanction discussed was a postal and telecommunications embargo on Rhodesia. During a reception given by the Zambian Government last night, Miss Lestor talked with representatives of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the South West African People's Organisation and the Zimbabwe African People's Union. Representatives of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) and the Zimbabwe African National Union

were also invited, but were away at the time in Dar es Salaam.

During a recorded television interview last night, Miss Lestor said that the days of the Rhodesian regime were numbered. It would collapse in the near future and "the sooner the better".

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian leader, "would be a fool" if he were not aware of this, and his talks in Pretoria with Mr John Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, showed that he was "worried man" seeking someone to lean on.

Miss Lestor said that in her talks yesterday with Mr Aaron Milner, the Zambian Home Affairs Minister, she discussed the question of British aid to Rhodesia, and had received enough information to satisfy people in London who were making anxious inquiries.

Zambia's sports boycott against Britain over the British Lions rugby tour of South Africa was also discussed. She hoped that now the British position had been explained, the boycott would be treated by Zambia as a problem rather than an all-time ban—Reuters.



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Whitlam price freeze agreement with state Premiers likely

Our Correspondent
Bourne, May 30
The first outcome of the election of the Whitlam Government is the likelihood of an agreement between the state Premiers and the Federal Government for a freeze on prices of essential commodities. This was indicated by Mr Whitlam's statement in the House of Representatives on May 29, when he said that the Government was prepared to co-operate with the state Premiers on this subject. The matter was raised by Mr Whitlam as soon as he was elected, and he said that he had written to the four non-Labour Premiers asking them if they would be prepared to give him the same co-operation in tackling inflation as he had promised to give them when he was returned to office.

Mr Whitlam said that the matter was raised by Mr Whitlam as soon as he was elected, and he said that he had written to the four non-Labour Premiers asking them if they would be prepared to give him the same co-operation in tackling inflation as he had promised to give them when he was returned to office. The matter was raised by Mr Whitlam as soon as he was elected, and he said that he had written to the four non-Labour Premiers asking them if they would be prepared to give him the same co-operation in tackling inflation as he had promised to give them when he was returned to office.

Sectarian violence flares in Punjab

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, May 30
Sectarian violence flared up in several cities in Pakistan today. Mobes set shops and mosques ablaze and assaulted their adherents in Rawalpindi, Lyallpur, Lahore, Multan and other places. The authorities have ordered schools and colleges to be closed.

Communist Party attempts to rekindle revolutionary spirit in a materialistic petty-bourgeois society

Uphill fight to win over Hungary's youth

By Gabriel Ronay

Since the removal of the "fathers" of the economic reform programme from key positions in Hungary's recent leadership, the ideologically loaded relationship between prosperity and revolutionary spirit has become the central issue in every official sponsored discussion.

The entire mass media, down to the smallest provincial daily, has dutifully reexamined for the umpteenth time the problem that has bedevilled the communist system: the choice between material possessions and revolutionary spirit.

In the bad old days of Rakosi's Stalinist terror, the marked lack of revolutionary spirit among the masses, amounting to a downright hatred of communism and all its works, was explained by the few who cared with the maxim: "You cannot sing revolutionary hymns on an empty stomach."

Japan's severe penal code plan denounced

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, May 30

A new attempt by the Japanese Government to introduce draconian measures into Japan's penal code caused a national protest today. The press and other critics claimed that the proposals, based on a prewar plan, would corrode democratic rights and stir up nationalism.

Protests began to spread across the country after the Legislative Council approved a drastic revision of the code, last reviewed 67 years ago. The plan was attacked by the Opposition parties, jurists, student organizations, most leading newspapers and groups of teachers, doctors and intellectuals.

Leading Soviet musicians apply to live in West

Moscow, May 30.—Three of Russia's leading musicians, including Scriabin, Richter, and others, have applied for permission to live in the West temporarily. Their applications appear to follow the example recently set by Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist.

According to Soviet sources, the men's decisions, taken separately, represent a double-edged sword that could either enhance cultural life here or impoverish it, should the authorities deny the musicians the opportunity to return home.

Any manufacturer who ignores this shouldn't be in business.

The time has come when no manufacturer can afford to overlook Northern Ireland.

At a time of high energy costs, increasing industrial unrest and scarce capital, the good news about Northern Ireland will come as a breath of fresh air to depressed businessmen.

A recent independent survey

In January of this year an independent financial analyst carried out a survey on eight international companies who had factories or manufacturing bases in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of the exercise was to compare operating costs in Northern Ireland with operating costs in the firms' countries of origin.

In each case the Northern Ireland subsidiary came out on top, largely through the productivity of the workforce and because of the industrial development incentives offered by the Department of Commerce.

Cheap capital.

As every businessman knows, capital is hard to come by.

In certain cases, companies setting up in Northern Ireland can qualify for assistance to the order of two-thirds of the total investment required and, in very special circumstances, the level of Government assistance can be even higher.

If you find capital elsewhere, an interest relief grant can be arranged.

Low rents.

It is possible for a new company coming to Northern Ireland to move into a brand new factory.

Some factories are let at annual rents as low as 90p a square metre, the lowest rents available in the EEC.

New building grants.

Should you wish to build your own factory, we can provide a maximum grant of 40% which,

taking full account of the tax concessions available, could mean that we're paying for 63% of your initial costs.

We pay for training.

Some businessmen have said that we have the best Government training facilities in Europe.

We have a system of Government training centres and no part of the Province is more than 25 miles from one of these centres.

Should you decide to come, we can train a skilled workforce in advance.

We believe that the State should shoulder the burden of training costs for new industry, not you.

If you set up in an area of high male unemployment, we can provide further substantial help towards starting up costs.

Grants and tax relief on machinery and equipment.

On new machinery and equipment we provide a maximum grant of 40% which, again taking full account of the tax concessions available, could mean that we would be footing the bill for 73% of your initial costs.

Good industrial relations.

Less than 4% of all workers engaged in all kinds of industrial activity were involved in any form of industrial dispute during 1973.

Their attitude is reflected in our productivity figures: In the past ten years, Northern Ireland's output has grown twice as fast as that of the United Kingdom as a whole.

13 manufacturing companies.

During 1973, another 13 manufacturing companies decided on new investment in Northern Ireland.

If all this has set you thinking, write to us.

One thing we can guarantee should you decide to invest in Northern Ireland.

You'll spend less time worrying about money and more time going about your business.

UN storm over report on Indian Ocean

From Peter Stafford
New York, May 30
A storm has blown up at the United Nations over a report on the Indian Ocean issued by Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary General. The report has been criticized by the Americans, the Russians, the British and the Chinese, and is being hastily rewritten.

The reports main point was an appeal to the Russians and the Americans to avoid becoming militarily involved in the Indian Ocean. But it was based on an analysis of the naval and military strengths of outside powers in the area, and this is being contested strongly.

Ex-minister is held after Karachi clash

Karachi, May 30.—Police have arrested a former Minister of State for Public Affairs after an incident yesterday in which police officers charged a crowd of 2,000 teachers.

Thai cleared on airliner bomb charge

Bangkok, May 30.—A former Thai police lieutenant was found not guilty here today of blowing up a Cathay Pacific airliner two years ago and killing 31 people on board.

More civilians abducted by communists in Vietnam

From Victoria Britain
Saiton, May 30
A remote Government position in the southern Central Highlands was surrounded over-run when it was cut off by radio contact early today after a barrage of communist shelling followed by an infantry attack.

The 133 defenders of the Akar, 15 miles east of the Cambodian border, were mostly Montagnard tribesmen. On the central and northern coast, where there has been heavy fighting, high casualties were reported yesterday. Skirmishes continued yesterday in one village near the con-

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MARKETING DIVISION

Water Research Centre

Mathematician

Operational Research and Economics Group

The Water Research Centre, with its two main laboratories, one at Medmenham, Buckinghamshire and the other at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, is the national centre for water research in the United Kingdom. With a total staff of 450 it is one of the largest water research organisations in the world. It is financed principally by the Regional Water Authorities as Members and is granted by the Department of the Environment.

A Mathematician is to be appointed as one of several section leaders in the Operational Research and Economics Group, based at the Medmenham laboratory, whose work extends over the whole of the technical and economic interests of the rivers, drinking water and sewage industry.

Particular responsibilities will include the provision of mathematical, statistical and computing advice to Members and staff of the Centre, and responsibility for an on-line data link to a CDC 6500 computer.

The salary range is £3,938 to £5,189 and is currently under review. National Water Council Contributory Pension Scheme.

Write or telephone for application form to:

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Quote Post No. 222.

Water Research Centre

Distribution Engineer and Materials Scientist

The Water Research Centre, with its two main laboratories, one at Medmenham, Buckinghamshire, and the other at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, is the national centre for water research in the United Kingdom. With a total staff of 450 it is one of the largest water research organisations in the world. It is financed principally by the Regional Water Authorities as Members and is granted by the Department of the Environment.

The Distribution Group, based at Medmenham, undertakes research work on pipe networks. Its work is now being extended to embrace sewerage systems.

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Quote Post No. 223 or 224.

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EDUCATION AUTHORITY

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(District Rank)

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Application forms and further details from the Education Officer (EO/Estab.2a/1) County Hall, SE1 7PB. Closing date for the return of completed forms - 17 June 1974.

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The person for whom we are searching will have received his training in one or other of the behavioural sciences, and will have gained several years experience in applying basic psychological principles to problems of career counselling, inter-personal problems etc.

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The successful applicant would have supporting staff, and would be required to undertake duties in connection with the continuation and progressive extension of the present Council's Occupational Health Service. The maintenance of standards of fitness for the various tasks undertaken by the County Council Staff includes medical screening for new entrants and statutory medical examinations. He or she will also be required to act as medical adviser to the Council and its Committees.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from The County Secretary, County Hall, Chester CH1 1SF.

Closing date 14th June.

This advertisement appears after consultation with the Staff Commission.

Structural Engineer

AUSTRALIA

The Head Office of the Australian Government Department of Housing and Construction, Melbourne, requires a Senior Structural Engineer to carry out important investigations and analyses; prepare preliminary designs and estimates in respect of structural systems or their components; investigate structural problems and assist in the development of design aids, standards, technical instruction and their promotion throughout the regional offices of the Department.

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The successful candidate will possess professional qualifications admitting to membership of the Institution of Engineers (Australia). Substantial experience in structural engineering systems and their components is desirable.

SALARY

Commencing salary will be within the range \$A11,348-12,664. At present exchange rate £1=£1.60 approx.

The Assistant Director General, Structural Engineering, will be in London early June, 1974, to interview short-listed applicants.

Please write giving full details of professional qualifications and experience together with contact telephone number to:-

The Recruitment Officer,
Public Service Board,
Canberra House,
Maltravers Street,
Strand, London, WC2R 3EH,
to arrive as soon as possible.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE AUTHORITY

PROSECUTING SOLICITORS DEPARTMENT

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SENIOR ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

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Application forms obtainable from the Clerk of THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AUTHORITY, Shire Hall, Reading, Berks. Tel. Reading 55981 Ext. 23.

Closing date 12th June, 1974.

This advertisement appears after consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission. It is not restricted. Local Government Officers, although, all other factors being equal, preference will be given to such officers.

Devon County Council ASSISTANT SOLICITOR £4,611-£5,118

Applications are invited for this post at County Hall, Exeter. Previous local government experience is not essential. This post will embrace both legal and administrative work.

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For further information, telephone Exeter 77977 ext. 289 or 291.

The advertisement appears after consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission for England, and is not restricted to service local government officers.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Financial Administrator

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales invites applications for the post of Financial Administrator to be responsible to the Council for its financial administration.

Applicants must hold an appropriate accountancy qualification and must have had experience of administration and business management at a senior level. This post offers work of interest and responsibility.

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Application forms and further information obtainable from the Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 22 Portland Place, London W1A 1BA. Completed forms should be returned not later than 30th June, 1974.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

JAMAICA

University of the West Indies

Applications are invited for the post of **DEPUTY DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION** in the **DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING** Division of the School of Education. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and planning of the School of Education, and will be required to undertake a wide range of administrative and academic duties. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

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Applications invited for this post. The person appointed will have clinical research and teaching responsibilities in the Department of Pharmacology, Manchester. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a wide range of academic and administrative duties. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of the South Pacific

Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURER IN CHEMISTRY** in the School of Natural Resources. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of Chemistry. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of the South Pacific, P.O. Box 11, Suva, Fiji, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODESIA

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Hong Kong

Applications are invited for the post of **STAFF TUTOR IN EDUCATION** in the Department of Education. The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision and guidance of students in the field of Education. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Hong Kong, P.O. Box 11, Hong Kong, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

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Applications are invited for the post of **DIRECTOR OF A NEW UNIT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the unit. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of York, P.O. Box 11, York, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Bristol

Applications are invited for the post of **TEACHER IN EDUCATION** in the Department of Education. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of Education. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Bristol, P.O. Box 11, Bristol, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The University of Lancaster

Applications are invited for the post of **DEPUTY DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION** in the Department of Education. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and planning of the School of Education, and will be required to undertake a wide range of administrative and academic duties. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Lancaster, P.O. Box 11, Lancaster, by 15th June 1974.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Adelaide

Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURER IN MEDICINE** in the Department of Medicine. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of Medicine. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Adelaide, P.O. Box 11, Adelaide, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF READING

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University of Sheffield

Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURER IN MEDICINE** in the Department of Medicine. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of Medicine. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Sheffield, P.O. Box 11, Sheffield, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

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Applications are invited for the post of **LIBRARIAN** in the Department of Library Services. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management and supervision of the library collection. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Sheffield, P.O. Box 11, Sheffield, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM

Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURER IN MEDICINE** in the Department of Medicine. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of Medicine. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Khartoum, P.O. Box 11, Khartoum, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURER IN MEDICINE** in the Department of Medicine. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of Medicine. The post is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar capacity. The salary scale is £4,000-£5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Nigeria, P.O. Box 11, Nigeria, by 15th June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM

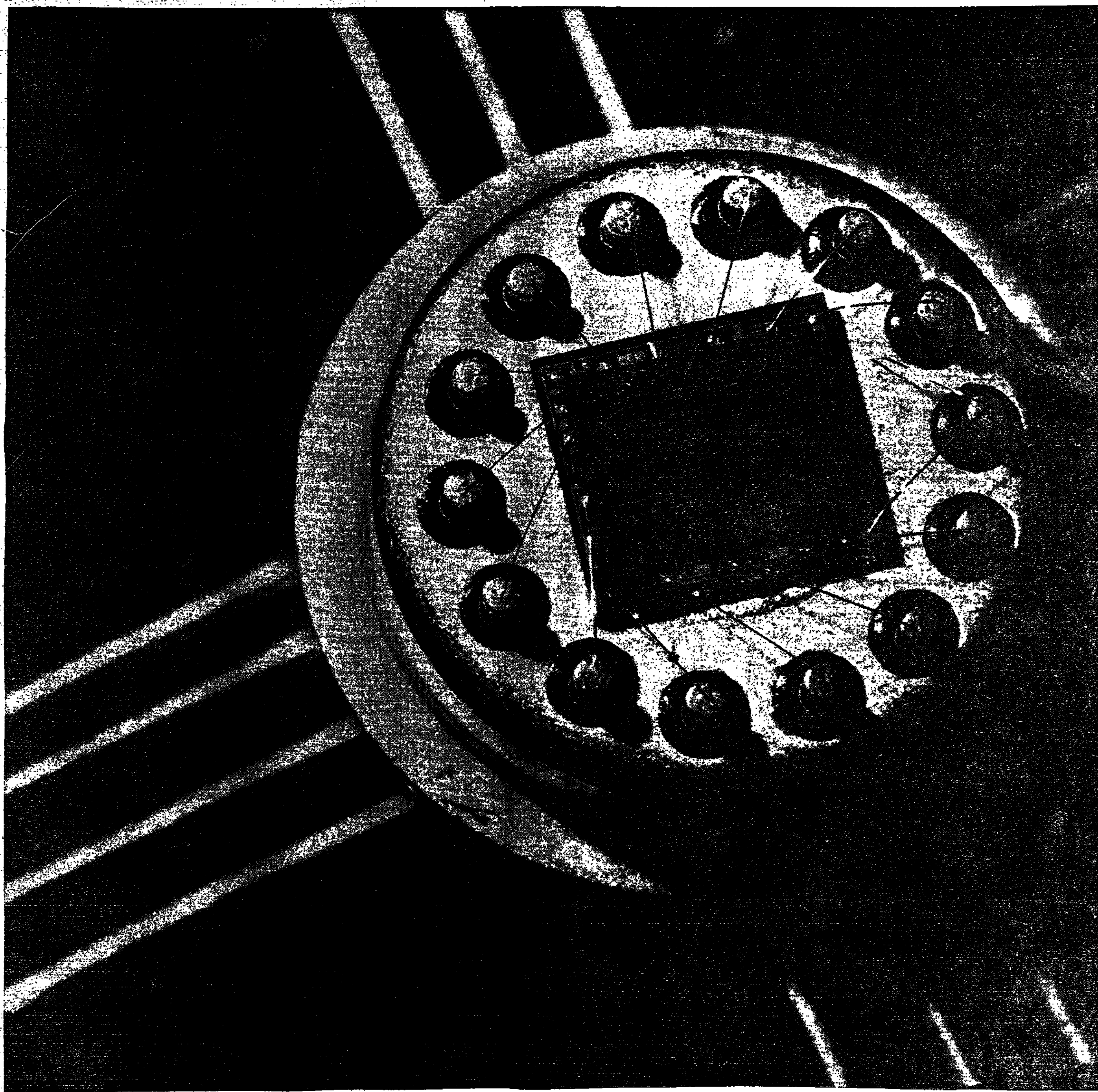
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Violence that could wreck the West from within

As Ulster struggles back into its civil war, a new book out today says all Britain should prepare for its worst period of domestic violence for more than 50 years. Except in Northern Ireland the police have not had to call for military assistance since the general strike, and the streets of Liverpool and the army in Britain in 1919. But these halcyon days are drawing to a close. Brigadier Frank Kitchin who argued in "Low Intensity Operations" that most army operations in the late 1970s would involve IRA type campaigns was "probably right". The relationship between the police and army should be urgently reexamined before we are enmeshed in a pattern of violence and conflict such as the country has not experienced since the years immediately preceding the First World War.

These anyway are among the conclusions drawn either in, or from, *Crisis in European Defence* which, as its title suggests, is concerned with a wider spectrum of horrors than urban guerrilla warfare in Britain. Its authors, Mr Geoffrey Lee Williams, senior lecturer in international relations at Portsmouth Polytechnic, and Mr Alan Lee Williams MP, Director of the British Atlantic Committee and a former parliamentary private secretary to Denis Healey, classify three kinds of threat to the stability of Europe during the next ten years.

One involves the Soviet Union. But deliberate Russian aggression against the West is unlikely. The least unlikely form it could take would be a large-scale attack by 25 divisions, backed up by 50 more. But however seriously this possibility must be covered by contingency planning in the West, the chances of its happening are remote.

More likely is any one of a variety of possible inter-state conflicts, such as the Russian-Greece versus Turkey over Cyprus or rights in the Aegean, Austria versus Italy over Tibet or Spain and Britain over Gibraltar. Further east the potential exists for clashes between Romania and Hungary, Romania and the Soviet Union, or Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Meanwhile the advancing years of those differing supremos Tito and Franco, make Yugoslavia and Spain focal points for special concern.

But the most likely threat to urban European life should come from this growth of domestic violence which could have far reaching implications for the security forces. The Army will have to support the police who on their own are ill-equipped to deal with urban violence on the grand scale. But this will mean that the Army will have to acquire a good grasp of psychological methods so that it can gain the sympathy of the population—an essential prerequisite for any political victory over the terrorists. There might also be a case for recruiting a new special kind of constabulary, perhaps on the lines of the old war-time reserve.

Soldiers meanwhile should be recruited with only one eye on the traditional military virtues such as courage, obedience and discipline, and the other on more subtle attributes like tact, finesse, patience, tolerance, and

political awareness. Army selection boards should place less emphasis on finding "officer-type" candidates and more on detecting those with understanding of public relations. Similarly an increase in the number of graduates among senior police officers might help, and policemen should be recruited not only for their fitness, perseverance and bravery, but for their understanding of human values, their appreciation of civil liberties and minority rights.

The errors of the past will be repeated, warn the Williams brothers, unless it is realized that the strength of the Army lies not in its firepower but in its capacity to carry through a sustained counter-insurgency campaign. It must be given the right to close roads, search houses and put up road blocks—although the rights must be exercised with restraint, under officers who understand the limits of their authority. (Actually if they do not already after Northern Ireland, where there are plenty of people to remind them, they never will.) This, they add, is not a prescription for military rule—but just a means of giving the politicians time to think and introduce their political remedies. Military defeat of the urban guerrilla is an illusion. True victory can only be in political terms.

Crisis in European Defence lists three other requirements for political victory over the insurgents, which it says, have been made apparent by Northern Ireland. One, the military should be allowed to run a sustained military campaign against defined objectives. Two, local civil authorities should be made subordinate to the military commander who should be directly responsible to a "minister for counter-insurgency". Three, not only should drastic social reform be implemented where appropriate but the authorities should be made to negotiate with the insurgents when the latter show interest in a political solution.

There are many in the armed forces who would agree with this prognosis for the next 10 years. Increased attention has been paid over the last year or two to future patterns of cooperation between the military and the police. Civil-military relations is a frequent topic for discussion on defence courses, and officers cast uneasy glances at hints of latent violence among student groups and politically disaffected minorities, although fears for the future are for the most part no more than intuitive.

If such fears prove to be well-founded, however, there would be infinite implications for NATO which, say the Williams brothers, is already at "the crossroads"—albeit a term which could be used to describe almost any organization at any time. If the stability of the Western alliance were suddenly threatened by internal trouble in say, West Germany, Holland or Denmark, would the authorities there feel justified in calling on other allies like Britain, for help? One doubts it, but it is another question for NATO to think about.

Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Crisis in European Defence is published by Charles Knight, £5.50.

The Nixon-haters who are trying to push a landslide back up the mountain

Bernard Levin

Look here upon this picture, and on this. In his report of the crushing defeat in the Arkansas Democratic primary of Senator Fulbright, *The Times* Washington correspondent, reviewing the campaign there, included a fascinating vignette. Senator Fulbright was reported as saying of his opponent's overwhelming margin of victory that it was "a tremendous surprise". Then:

Only last Sunday, he said on national television—unwisely, his senior assistants felt—that his polls indicated he was "four-tenths of one per cent ahead". His assistants later admitted they had no polls.

No polls! Imagine: no polls! Here a poll, there a poll, all God's children got polls, but poor Senator Fulbright had no polls at all.

But in that case, how did he come to say on national television (unwisely, his senior assistants felt) that his polls indicated that he was four-tenths of one per cent ahead? The fact is, I regret to say, that Senator Fulbright was a politician seeking re-election who when circumstances suggested that it might be electorally advantageous to report the findings of a poll putting him just ahead of the rival candidate, reported such findings despite the fact that they were, whether he knew it or not, fictitious.

Never mind, for the moment, what Nanny used to say about where people who say things that aren't true don't go when they die; what does the pack that has for so long been hunting President Nixon and all his men say? Do they, one and all, declare that it is just as well, electorally, that Senator Fulbright lost his Senate seat, as it would otherwise be necessary for him to be expelled (unless, of course, he would do the decent thing and resign)? Do they insist that nothing else could be expected from a man who for 30 years has courted, and accepted, electoral help from some of the vilest bigots in the United States, casting his Senate votes consistently against every stage of the American Negro's slow and painful advance? Do they remind the world of his appalling remark that it didn't matter a damn if the Vietnamese hill-farmer who sort of a government he lived under, and drew attention to its racist undertones? Do they dub him "Tricky Billy", insist that they would not buy a second-hand car from him, rejoice at the humiliation of his electoral rout, declare that although politics is a rough, tough business, the use of spurious evidence is far, far outside the area in which morally dubious practices can be excused in the pursuit of power?

Well no, as a matter of fact they do not. I have said before, am about to say now, and will no doubt say again, that President Nixon may be guilty of all the crimes and misdemeanours attributed to him, and even some (such as eating biscuits in bed) which he has not yet been charged with; or he may be entirely innocent of everything alleged; or he may be guilty on some charges and not guilty on others; or not guilty on others and guilty on some. Of one offence, however, there can be no doubt whatever: that is, that he is a dishonest, indefensible, guilty, and that is having, on or about the first Tuesday after the

first Monday in November, 1972, beaten Mr George McGovern in the Presidential election by one of the biggest popular margins in the entire history of the Republic.

Here, we must avoid falling into the temptation of either/or. A great deal of the denunciation of President Nixon has come from people convinced of his guilt in the matter of Watergate, or who feel that his conduct in office, whether he has included crimes or violations of the Constitution or not, has fallen below the minimum standard acceptable in an American President. And either or both of these beliefs may be well-founded, and President Nixon therefore unworthy of his high responsibility and unfit to continue to discharge it.

But a good deal, also, of the implacable fervour with which he is being pursued, and which contrasts so sharply with the attitude adopted by the pursuers to similar actions alleged against, or admitted by, those whom they favour generally—as they disfavour President Nixon generally—is based on their deep sense of affront that, given the choice between their chosen standard-bearer and Mr Nixon, the American people overwhelmingly chose Mr Nixon. To reverse that crushing rejection of their own beliefs is what many of those so eagerly sounding their horns in the Nixon-hunt seek, consciously or unconsciously. This fact, as I say, does not exclude other, sadder motives, either among the pack in general or indeed in individual hunters. But unless the fact is grasped, a great deal of recent American history becomes unintelligible.

The rot started with President Kennedy. He was claimed by the liberal establishment of America as one of them, indeed as their personal possession. I believe that this attitude was based on a misunderstanding of his political character, but that is not the point; the point is that "we" most profoundly felt that "one of us" had at last become President of the United States.

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Then came the tragedy of Dallas, and the accession of Lyndon Johnson. It is fashionable now, among the intellectual fashionable folk, to believe that the hatred of Johnson stemmed from his grossly deeper involvement in the Vietnam War. It did not; it long antedated it. It began on the day of the assassination, when they realized, to their fury and dismay, that the new President, whatever he was, was emphatically not one of them, and it deepened when, after his landslide victory over Senator Goldwater in 1964, he succeeded in pushing through the liberal legislation which Kennedy, blocked by a hostile Congress, had been unable to enact. (It was most instructive to watch how, when Johnson began to prove successful, they began to gather round his Vice-President, Humphrey, to save themselves from the pain of admiring the uncouth Texan.)

In Mr William Manchester's book about the assassination of John Kennedy, *Death of a President*, there is a tiny spook scene that sums up what I am talking about. In the aeroplane taking Johnson and Mrs Kennedy back to Washington with the body of the slain one, one of the press secretaries referred to Johnson quite correctly, as "the President". General McHugh, Kennedy's Air Force aide, retorted: "I have only one President, and he's lying back in that cabin". The remark so pleased Kenneth O'Donnell, one of Kennedy's political advisers, that he responded thus to McHugh:

"This morning you were this tall", he said, holding his hand a few inches from the floor. Then he raised it as high as he could reach and said: "Now you're up here".

But McHugh and O'Donnell had been very close to Kennedy, and were still numb from the horror of the previous hour; their reaction was understandable. The subsequent, much wider refusal to admit that Johnson could really be President, that "their" President had been snatched from them by an uncaring fate, which affected the liberal

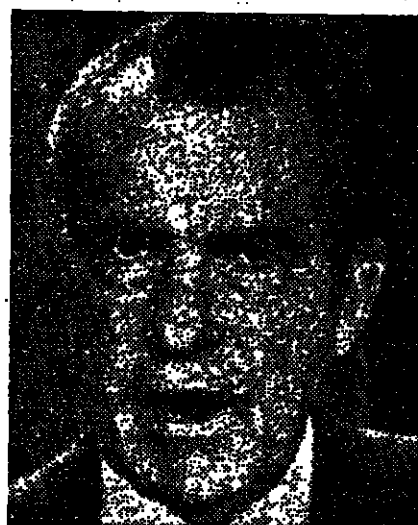
intelligence generally, was another matter. (Incidentally, when I looked up the details of the episode I have recounted, in order to check my memory of it, in Manchester's book, I came across something hardly less characteristic, namely Senator Fulbright's reaction to the news of Kennedy's assassination. He heard it over lunch, and when he did so he leaped to his feet. "God damn it!" he shouted. "I told him not to go to Dallas!"

When Humphrey palled, and it began to look possible that Robert Kennedy might challenge Johnson, politico-psychological allegiance was instantly transferred to him, and when he too, was struck down by an assassin in the middle of the absolutely certain primary campaign, and Senator McGovern saw his chance, there was a last-minute rallying to him, as the closest available approximation to "one of us". The 1972 triumph, in the fight for the Democratic nomination, of John McGovern (probably the most intellectually inadequate potential President since Harding, but by the mercy of Providence and the good sense of the American electorate not similarly elevated to being an actual one) was the apotheosis of the entire liberal establishment's dream: the defeat of the absolutely certain loser to fight the hated usurper, Nixon, the man whom "we" had abolished in 1960, and again in 1962, but who nevertheless, by some hideous miscalculation, was actually sitting in the White House, and proposing to sit there for four years more.

His proposal was endorsed by the vote of a landslide of almost unprecedented dimensions; and it is so now that landslide back up the mountain that so many of the hunters of President Nixon yearn, whether they realize it or not. The voters chose Nixon; so much the worse for the voters, hour; their reaction was understandable. The subsequent, much wider refusal to admit that Johnson could really be President, that "their" President had been snatched from them by an uncaring fate, which affected the liberal

Once more, with feeling: President Nixon may be guilty of high crimes and misdemeanours, and if he has been he is unfit to hold his office and should leave it or be removed from it. And now, to those who share that opinion, a question: just what do you think, and feel, and say, about Senator Fulbright's use of a non-existent opinion poll?

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President Nixon (left) and Senator Fulbright: Sauce for the goose...?

Why the militant teachers are failing the test

The National Union of Teachers' action committee meets today to decide finally on whether to hold strikes in some schools—but they are unlikely to decide to do so.

Indeed, teacher militancy in the North-East and in London has degenerated into a farce. And with examinations and the setting up of an independent inquiry into teachers' pay, the public would probably agree that the season and the reason for teacher militancy is past.

The National Union of Teachers held a referendum of its 32,000 London members at the beginning of May. It followed a successful afternoon's walk-out in beautiful sunshine by at least 11,500 of them. The union asked for votes for three kinds of strikes: of one day up to two weeks, and more than two weeks. The votes were collected on May 8. The result has not been made public, and three weeks later, there are many members on the picket lines still, but finding it very hard to vote.

I understand that in some cases the teachers simply did not understand the questions in the ballot. Quite a significant number of them voted for strikes of more than two weeks, but did not also vote for strikes of up to two weeks. May be they thought they were being asked to choose one of the three, instead of votes for all three.

The leadership is also suffering from a paranoia of publicity. At two meetings its action committee, which was organizing the ballot, were asked to return them, and then solemnly sworn to secrecy. But a militant left-wing teacher who burst into one of the meetings armed with a camera, startled the committee until they realized he was not equipped with a flash gun.

The operation has reached farce proportions because the whole object of the ballot was to award an interim increase in the teachers' London allowance by May 31, the last date for

teachers to resign if they want to leave London at the end of the summer term. The union's action committee has prevailed beyond that date, by its own indecision.

The indications are that about 47 per cent of the members in inner London voted for strikes of up to two weeks. A much lower proportion of teachers in outer London also voted this way. Lower proportions all round voted for strikes of more than two weeks.

The union needs a two-thirds majority of its members in any one school or area before it can call its members out. They did not have this majority in any of its 40-odd Greater London areas, but they did have it at about 500 schools, mainly in inner London, Brent, Newham and Waltham Forest.

Technically, the executive could call the schools out on strike. But they will not do so, because when it comes to the crunch, teachers are too profes-

sional and too admirable to want to disrupt examinations.

Witness the North-East. Here with manifest skill the National Association of Schoolmasters have managed to blow a rather small local dispute about the demotion of a deputy headmaster into a mammoth row in which they began boycotting examinations all over the region, and threatened the chances of thousands of pupils in the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) examinations.

Faced with pressure from parents and with between 50 and 200 resignations from their members, they changed the boycott to a threat to hold on to the schools local papers which their members had marked. Few can seriously believe that this is not just part of another climb-down.

Much of the heat has been taken out of student dissatisfaction with the Government's 25 per cent increase in student grants. On the same day as the students ended their picket at trouble-

some Essex University, Mr Francis Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced the setting up of an independent inquiry into teachers' pay. It will almost certainly recommend big increases before the end of the year.

It comes on top of a £10.8m award to teachers in schools in difficult areas, and a promise that London teachers will be able to negotiate substantial increases in their allowance after the Pay Board reports in June. No one denies that the teachers deserve more money. But if their unions carry out strikes in the same manner as two of them have been behaving in the past few weeks, they will only bring public ridicule upon themselves, and deny many of their members a raise. The Professional Association of Teachers, a newly formed organization which has 8,000 members and is a safe haven for anti-strikers.

Tim Devlin

Education Correspondent

In the aftermath of Maalot

Below is an extract from a letter written three days after the massacre at Maalot by Simon Louvish, a young Israeli film director associated with the "far left". He had returned to Israel after coming to England for the completion and first showings of his film *To Live in Freedom—Israelis and Palestinians in Israel-Palestine*, now showing at the Paris-Pullman. It is a documentary about the history of Jewish colonization in the land, and its effects on both Palestinian Arab and Israeli Jewish societies in the present day. Both the film and Mr Louvish himself made a favourable impression on Palestinians who attended discussion meetings in London. His comments on the Maalot tragedy and its effect on Israeli attitudes should therefore be of some interest.

The letter was addressed to Uri Davis, a co-producer of the film, and was intended for circulation. Mr Davis has authorized its publication by *The Times*.

The overall atmosphere here is one of apprehensive passivity. People sit and wait for the next program. The feeling of helplessness affects the Jews as well as the Arabs, all for the death penalty do not carry with them any conviction that this will actually change anything. They are now even consciously seen as a ritual. In fact, there is a bizarre political situation in this country—the right is overall defeatist and offers nothing but fear in the face of the left. The far left (what remains of Shich and Matzpen) is the only one which says: look, it's not so negative, a solution is possible, etc.

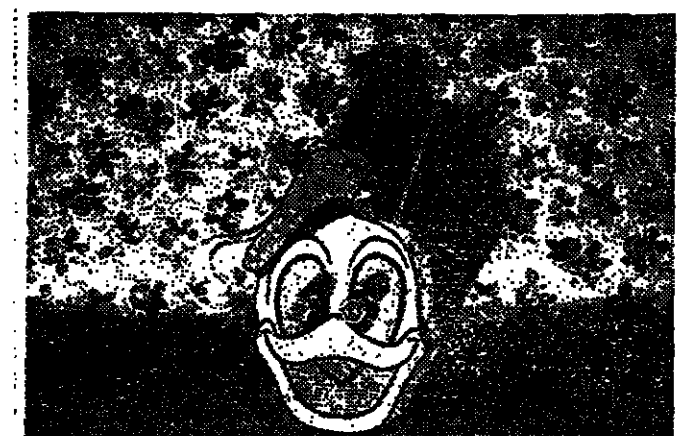
The defeatism of the right minimizes its strength as an alternative government. The far left has, on the other hand, the ground upon which it has been fighting the Maalot massacre. My personal feeling is that Hawameh (PDPFL) has made a serious blunder. The little I've seen here since I arrived tended to confirm the reactions we got in London at our Hillel House showing—there has been a growing awareness of the Palestinian case among Israelis—not only on the far left. But instead of adopting policies aimed at widening the wedge between people and government on this issue, the Palestinian movements have adopted policies which drive the people into nationalist and chauvinistic positions. For Hawameh to send guerrillas to hold school-buses as hostages and then to proclaim the need for the Socialist State and for Israel to abandon Zionism is, at the least, political schizophrenia. It is a stark, terrifying point which puts the efforts of many dissident Israelis many years back.

By making children into targets he activates the most neurotic strains of the Jewish paranoia, since a parallel is automatically drawn with the one million children killed by the Nazis. It is a situation more liable to turn Israeli en-masse to the Massada complex.

(The probable fact that the government here was willing to sacrifice the children is irrelevant to this basic point—When you point a gun at somebody you take on the responsibility for what might happen.)

What has happened since October 1973 is that Israelis have changed from a people in an offensive and aggressive position to a people in a defensive position. Options which were open before October are now closed. It is a situation in which small actions by the other side (Arabs or Palestinians) can make a balance between a positive and negative direction. In my opinion a very crucial opportunity to gain support within Israel for the Palestinian cause has been missed.

Simon Louvish



Who really control the radio waves—and for what?

The ether is man's birthright, as free as the air he breathes. Or is it? Actually, the radio spectrum is ruthlessly patrolled by governments and international agencies. Amateurs and citizens are restricted to just a few limited bands. And the Post Office is as much a military contractor as a manager of public telecommunications and broadcasting services.

The right to speak to every person in the land is jealously guarded, disguised in peacetime by the Jimmy Young or Emperor Roscoe shows. But, given a political crisis, it could quickly turn into a powerful tool of official persuasion.

In the case of nuclear war or revolution, the BBC would use its elaborate arrangement of transmitters linked by protected landlines to the government's underground emergency headquarters at Evesham—so it could always keep control of the air waves.

Also this week: a new look into the mind's eye; halting costly car rot; the less obvious behavioural differences between the sexes; the remarkable oddity of Zipf's Law; and all the latest international news of science and technology.

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The Times Diary

The acceptable face of poetry

"A lot of us do something like that. Some draw. Peter Thorneycroft does very nice drawings of withered leaves. I always think that's the equivalent of a poet's slim volume." Hailsham was exchanging banter with Dribber, who called him a poet. He was upbraided Hailsham for saying on television that the country was "literally bleeding to death". Hailsham recalled how the rebuke had been completely humiliating and a man carrying a paper folder said: "Very nice. I'm writing a play about Oscar Wilde for the BBC. I must use that."

Lyrical

Talking about poems, how about this: a poem to Edward Heath performed at a concert in his honour in China? It was at Sian, capital of the ancient state of China, which unified the Chinese empire 200 years before the birth of Christ. David Bonavia, who was there, translated it thus: In the land of Chin, 300 miles, the wheat rolls far and wide. The river Wei has willows, giving shade on either side. Flowers blossom in the sun. Guests are welcome in Sian. British friends we're glad to see. Having come 10,000 li. To make the Brits and Chinese friends. Is one of our important ends. The li is a Chinese measure of distance equivalent to about a third of a mile. The figure 10,000 is metaphorical.

WAITING LIMITED TO 60 MINS IN ANY HOUR

Today's mystifying road sign was photographed at Barnham, Merioneth, by Peggy Morris, of *The Times*. She says it has been amended since. More next week.

Good will

Sir Hugh Wontner, the much-travelled Lord Mayor of London, returns tonight from a five-day good will visit to Europe which took him to Geneva and Baden-Baden. Baden-Baden, a city of 45,000 people and two symphony orchestras, promotes itself aggressively as a tourist centre, partly because, in spite of its beauty, many of its young people find it dull and leave. As part of the promotion the city invited a few British reporters as its guests to report the Lord Mayor's visit, calculating that it had no hope of receiving publicity otherwise. Stuart Reid was one of those invited, and here is his report. It is reassuring to discover that

German efficiency has its limitations. According to the programme, Sir Hugh was to have arrived at 10.30 on Wednesday night in a horse-drawn carriage. At the last minute, however, there were no horses for the carriage, and Sir Hugh arrived at five minutes past midnight in a car. "Baggage left at Basel", he explained wearily.

Then yesterday there was to have been a performance of Shakespeare. That turned out to be a farce, by Mollière, performed by German. Sir Hugh does not speak. Finally the local television station was to have shown a film about the City of London, but a film about the Port of London arrived instead, and they thought it inappropriate and did not screen it.

Other events went according to plan. Sir Hugh was presented with a dark pine from the Black Forest, some bottles of the good white wine and a set of glasses. The Lord Mayor of Baden-Baden received a cut glass sherry decanter, an official resolution on parchment declaring London's love of his city and a set of eight-foot marionettes. Sir Hugh did it better.

Today before lunch a friendly game of roulette will be played by Sir Hugh and his opposite number. Tots worth £100 will be the prizes and they will be given to an invalid children's fund.

Doiled up

Pierre Cardin's new spring collection was unveiled in London yesterday. It was a collection of eight-foot marionettes. The fashion designer has not found a cheap replacement for live models; he was in London for the first time as a theatrical promoter, with a production called *Les Femmes*, from his Paris centre, Espace Pierre Cardin. The puppets are the stars of the play.

Clad in check jacket, check shirt and bow tie, Cardin explained that for the past few years he has been combining his fashion business with running a theatre in Paris. He is not afflicted with false modesty. He talked of his "exceptional" success in the design field, adding: "I'm a success everywhere in the world." Thus he had asked himself what he should do next.

He had been involved in the theatre as a young man and decided to return to this early love. He is not specially concerned about making money but is more concerned that what he puts on should do his reputation good. He cheerfully admits that success in the theatre can provide publicity which boosts his fashion empire.

The play, which received its British premiere at the Round House, Chalk Farm, last night, is by Francois Billeard, who has had success in Britain with more conventional plays.

Undercurrents

Although the champagne flowed yesterday to launch the Russian vessel ever to be given a British passenger certificate, the grapes turned a bit sour when it docked at Westminster. The Russian hydrofoil *Raketa* (Rocket) will, according to its importers, present a modern concept of travel to a traffic-choked metropolis. But some of those running more conventional pleasure craft were not impressed.

"I don't think the tourists will want to whizz up and down the river as fast as that. Our boats are slower but you can at least see things," said one defiantly. Another was concerned about the waste, and the possible damage to his craft. "We had the Italians running this hydrofoil service but they had to pack

up and go", he said, with menace.

The Italians did start a hydrofoil service in 1972, the first regular one, but Londoners did not take to the idea of going to work by boat, and the service had to stop. The new service will be for tourists at first—perhaps only they will be able to afford the £1 single and £1.50 return fare. Four more hydrofoils are under way; they will carry commuters between Westminster and Greenwich.

Undramatic

Paddy Devlin, the SDLP former Minister of Health, has revealed that he resigned 11 days before the power sharing Executive in Northern Ireland collapsed. He scribbled his resignation note at a meeting with Merlyn Rees, the Secretary of State, at Stormont Castle. He made his decision after Unionist ministers had refused to defer a fine on rent strikers who were protesting against internment.

The full Executive were holding a discussion with Rees on May 17 when Devlin undramatically wrote his resignation, had it sent from the room, typed and returned before the talk ended with Rees apparently unaware of what was going on. The resignation was frozen when the loyalist strike grew worse—a development which broke the Executive anyway.

To a man, of course, we were ashamed to be British after Wednesday night's savannah in Rotterdam, but I think Sidney Hamet, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, was over-estimating the peril when he said: "We may consider putting up fences around the White Hart Lane ground at our next board meeting."

PHS



ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

Once again Dr Kissinger must be congratulated on a remarkable diplomatic achievement, and perhaps the most remarkable to date. To bring it off he has had to make a quite unprecedented personal effort. Not only has he been away from Washington for more than a month, but nearly four weeks he, the foreign minister of the most powerful nation in the world, has acted as messenger boy shuttling to and fro almost daily between the capitals of two small countries, several thousand miles away from home.

The United States Government has hardly provided the services of its Secretary of State or such a long period out of purely disinterested concern for the peace of the Middle East. It is clearly considered that its own interests were crucially involved. The interests of the administration as such certainly are involved. President Nixon badly needed a diplomatic success to offset his deepening domestic troubles. But more was at stake than that.

The events of last autumn—the October war, the brief confrontation between the superpowers and the oil embargo—made it clear that both world peace and American national interests were seriously threatened by the Middle East conflict. This state of affairs had arisen largely owing to the inefficiencies of earlier American policy in the area, which had allowed the United States to become closely identified with Israel in the eyes of the Arabs, to hold America responsible for Israel's continued occupation of her territory. Relations between America and the Arab world got worse and worse, while Soviet influence in the Middle East creased.

Double task

Since then the United States has rearmed Israel, and the Arab world has rearmoured the Arabs, more heavily than ever before. If war breaks out again, it will be even more murderous, destructive and costly than last time, and once again the United States will be unable to escape being identified with Israel. The dangers to both world peace and American national interests will be greater than ever. The United States cannot afford to let this happen. Dr Kissinger has therefore set himself a double task: to prevent war, and to convince the Arabs that America is not their enemy. Both these aims can be achieved—and, in the present, are being achieved—in the same way. The United States must contribute, and be seen to contribute, to progress towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict involving a withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. The exceptional effort which Kissinger has had to make to bring about this latest stage in the process was necessary because it was an exceptionally difficult stage. The Israelis are

repeatedly unenthusiastic about the agreement, because they feel that they have made all the concessions. They perhaps do not appreciate how difficult it was to get the Syrians to accept any disengagement agreement at all, short of total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Syrian territory.

The Syrians started from a much more intransigent position than did the Egyptians, for several reasons. In the first place, their commitment to the Palestinian cause is much more genuine and deeply felt. Geographically and historically, as President Assad rather eloquently recalled in a speech three months ago, Palestine (like Lebanon and Transjordan) is a part of the Syrian region—a region which was the cradle of modern Arab nationalism in the late nineteenth century. The Syrians are linked to the Palestinians by ties of speech, kinship and custom, and Syria is divided from Palestine by no obvious natural frontier comparable to the Sinai desert.

Security threat

Right from the start, therefore, the Syrians saw the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine as a threat to their own security. With the wisdom of hindsight and detachment of distance, one may say that they would have better ensured their security by coming to terms with the Jewish state in 1948. Instead they hurried it with sporadic artillery fire from their vantage point on the Golan Heights. When in 1967 Israel retaliated by occupying the Heights, the Syrians saw this as proof of Israel's expansionist nature, and this conviction was reinforced when Israel began to populate the Heights with civilian Jewish settlements.

Golan is thus a much more intractable problem than Sinai, from both sides' point of view. Sinai is a desert, whose occupation by Israel may be dishonourable for Egypt, and whose military occupation by Egypt may be alarming for Israel. But there is no great emotional obstacle to either side's regarding Israeli occupation of it as temporary.

Golan by contrast is of great emotional importance to both sides. In Syrian hands it is a direct military threat to the Bula valley, and in Israeli hands it is a direct threat to Damascus. Moreover, it is fertile, and it is new cultivated and inhabited by Israeli civilians. This gives a permanent character to the Israeli occupation of it which the Israeli occupation of Sinai—or most of Sinai at any rate—does not have.

The settlers do not want to withdraw, and the Israeli Government has repeatedly assured them that they will not have to. These assurances are heard also in Damascus. They amount to a declaration of intent to stay in permanent occupation of Syrian territory, irrespective of security considerations. To Syrians this is clearly unacceptable, and that is why the Syrians were so insistent on the need to link disengagement to eventual total Israeli withdrawal.

In the event they have accepted an agreement containing only a clause referring to Security Council Resolution 338, which they know Israel does not interpret as implying total withdrawal. From the Syrian point of view that is a major concession, whether or not the Israelis regard it as such.

The agreement is therefore very significant, but also very fragile, for two reasons. The first is the Syrian refusal to give any commitment about Palestinian terrorist operations from Syrian territory. Disengagement without this commitment was Israel's greatest concession. The American attempt to remedy this by promising "diplomatic support" to Israel in the event of reprisals is, if anything, an encouragement for renewed war rather than a deterrent.

But the second, and more fundamental, reason is precisely the unresolved question of Golan. It is very hard to see how Mr Kissinger's very weak government, with its majority of one in the Knesset, can envisage any further withdrawal in Golan. But nor can the Syrians allow the disengagement lines to become a permanent boundary. If this shows signs of happening, the Syrians are all too likely to denounce the agreement, and renew the war, hoping to drag Egypt in after them.

It is therefore vital that matters should not be left as they are. The dynamic of peace which Dr Kissinger has set in motion must be kept up. The next problem on the agenda must be dealt with soon.

Impossible

But which is it? The Israelis would find it easiest to discuss a further withdrawal in Sinai. But politically it would be difficult if not impossible for Egypt to move on that front unless there is also progress elsewhere. A better option would probably be some kind of disengagement agreement with Jordan. Mr Allon, the new Israeli foreign minister, was known to favour this at one time. But it may already be too late, since King Hussein shows signs of bowing before Arab pressure and leaving the future of the West Bank to be negotiated by the Palestine Liberation Organisation—whose National Council is due to open, at long last, in Cairo tomorrow.

Mr Allon was also one of the first Israeli leaders to acknowledge the existence of a "Palestinian entity". There is a growing recognition in Israel that negotiations with the Palestinians will sooner or later be necessary, even if also an understandable reluctance to accept the PLO, which takes responsibility for such outrages as the massacre at Maalot, as their representative. It seems unlikely, however, that any other body would be accepted by more than a minority of Palestinians as representative, and an unrepresentative body will hardly serve the trust. In other times and other countries, those who sought an *interlocutor* valuable have usually had sooner or later to overcome their distaste for "talking to terrorists".

MORE THAN APOLOGIES ARE NEEDED

You are a young lad living in a high rise flat in north London, working as a messenger boy or as an assembly line job or working in a store, and you find yourself abroad on a one-day spree to see your local football team playing in the final, what is your reaction likely to be? In the case of Tottenham, to clobber

to need to seek any parallels in a Clockwork Orange. The need to get out and show the signers who is best, stimulated by plenty of cheap drink, is expressed in smashing up property, ransacking anything to hand, and finally, in bashing the head of the football ground itself. Here is nothing new in the case of events which disgraced the visit of Tottenham Hotspur to Rotterdam on Wednesday. Such scenes, if on a lesser scale, happen almost every day, as the wrecked coaches football specials, or the rears of fighting on the

terraces, show. On rare occasions, a large section of the crowd gets out of hand, as happened when supporters of Newcastle United spilled on to the pitch and causing a cup tie earlier this season to be played again. Manchester United supporters forced the abandonment of a game; but it did not save the club from relegation to the second division anyway.

The fact that the pattern of violence is well established in no way excuses the behaviour which Tottenham fans displayed in Rotterdam. This was a particularly shocking example of vandalism, and British people as a whole cannot but feel a sense of shame that the Dutch hosts were given such a bad example of British youth. It calls for something more than a simple apology.

The sports manager, Mr Bill Nicholson, did his best to quell the outbreak, both before the game started and later. But clearly, by the time the club's over-excited supporters had reached the ground it was too

late for loudspeaker announcements to have much effect.

Given the very serious circumstances of the case, it would seem proper for the British club to make good the damage done. A large cheque will not by itself wipe out the disgrace to the name of British football, but it would at least be compensation for the physical damage. It would, indeed, be a nice gesture if Spurs could assemble a group of their supporters to go over to Rotterdam to help clear up some of the mess at the stadium.

The root of the trouble—as everyone knows—lies in the pervasive atmosphere of violence, on and off the field, at British and other football grounds generally. A serious attempt has been made by clubs to discipline their players and a variety of measures are under consideration to improve crowd control. It will be a sad day when moats or wire fences separate spectators from players on all major grounds. But the rioting in Rotterdam underlines the case for radical action.

United Nations and trade

Professor Richard N. Gardner, May 1 correct Miss Vanya, Mr Leigh's February 18 article is first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) conference (Geneva) dealing and trading into the Small States.

He desires efforts to seek a cking vote for the 12 major nations. The reader might suppose he phrasing that a veto was to be for each of them. In fact, proposal was that certain important questions should be subject to a special majority requirement, namely a majority of the 12 principal trading nations. Special major requirements have long been used in the United Nations—given to a "double majority" requirement in the Security Council, and in the General Assembly, and in the Economic and Social Council.

Indeed, the proposal regarding the occurrence of a majority in the voting nations was not in issue

in the closing sessions on institutional questions, which centred on how to promote consensus through "conciliation" procedures. We believed that an institution in which Chad had the same vote as the United Kingdom, the United States, or the Soviet Union—and in which "decisions" could be taken on major trade and development questions without the support of a single country having the responsibility for executing the decisions, was not likely to secure the enthusiastic cooperation of the developed nations. Also, this diagnosis has been only too well confirmed in UNCTAD's ten-year history.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD N. GARDNER,
Professor of Law and International Organization,
Columbia University,
485 West 116th Street,
New York.

Nurses' pay

From Mrs Joan Lovett
Sir, I have been nursing since 1939, with a break of five years to have my children. I agree with you that I

have enjoyed public support and still gain great satisfaction from my work even though my annual salary as a ward sister is £1,947. However, the public respect is no longer very evident. I suspect that teachers, policemen, civil servants, etc., would probably agree that this is so. It was inconceivable that nurses would ever strike or take any form of industrial action a few years ago; I certainly do not condone the actions being taken by some of my colleagues, but I can understand why they feel they must act so.

The public may be appalled by the idea of nurses striking, linking the profession with the services and the police who have always considered their responsibilities and sense of duty to the public their prime objective. However, the public should realize we, too, have to live in the society as it is, with rampaging inflation.

Yours faithfully,
J. LEVETT,
25 Kingston Crescent,
Ashford, Middlesex.
May 28.

Ulster: the future of the Union

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch
Sir, I wish that you could share the equality with which you contemplate the future of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (May 29). You evidently believe that Scotland, Wales, or even Cornwall would wish to remain united to an England (as represented by its present leaders) so inept, so feeble and so pusillanimous.

I must suggest that in reflecting a loss of political will may be speaking for yourself, rather than Britain? Have you considered that if the sovereignty of the United Kingdom should cease to include any part of Ireland, and hence the territorial seas adjacent to it (which may soon be extended to twelve miles by international agreement) the maritime defence and off-shore resources of the United Kingdom would be critically affected?

As to "representatives of the two communities in the province" agreeing to a constitutional framework, it is not as if referring to Protestants and Catholics may respectfully point out that a political ferment is taking place in Northern Ireland, in the course of which sectarian rather than sectarian groupings and leaders are emerging.

The British Government ought not to be too choosy who it talks to: it should propose having a senate, elected every four years on a scheme to ensure representation of the major interests and regions in the province, with powers equivalent to the House of Lords; it should raise a numerous, well trained, non-sectarian and uncommitted police force; it should negotiate with Dublin a United Kingdom-Eire border which can be effectively controlled by the civil power. When all this has been achieved a considerable reduction in the number of British soldiers stationed in Northern Ireland should be possible without risk of anarchy.

Yours faithfully,
IAN McGEACH,
Mansfield,
Durham.
May 29.

From Mr C. D. Henderson
Sir, The article by Mr Francis Pym, Opposition spokesman for NI affairs, in your issue of May 24 is obviously a genuine attempt by someone outside the Province to see clearly through the complexities of the political situation in this part of the United Kingdom.

Nevertheless I feel that some comments on his assessment of the reasons behind the present disagreement may be helpful to readers who are not fully conversant with the Unionist standpoint and indeed of interest to both the Government and Opposition.

As Mr Pym says, the declared aim of the Conservatives in 1970 was "to remove the causes of grievance" and "to carry out security measures designed to defeat terrorism".

In general, I believe it is true to say that the Unionist programme welcomed the removal of causes of grievance, even in cases where they were not genuine, so that justice would be seen to be done.

They welcomed, too, the prospect of the British government adopting adequate security measures designed to defeat terrorism, but were appalled to see that these measures, rather than defeating terrorism, merely sought to contain it, resulting, as the people of the Province well know, in death, injury and destruction on an unprecedented scale.

It is in view of the opinions of politicians and even of retired Army officers are discounted, the truth remains that the Unionists believe that the Army was not allowed to deal effectively with the terrorists because the Government was intent on carrying out a policy of appeasement towards the Republican representatives.

It is true that extensive negotiations were initiated during Direct Rule in an attempt to settle the affairs of the Province, but it should not be forgotten in this respect that the dis honourable attempt by Mr Whitelaw secretly to come to an agreement with the IRA dispelled a considerable amount of the trust Unionists had previously placed in British statesmen.

Freedom of speech

From Mr Jonathan Guinness
Sir, Professor Roy Edgley says in a letter you published on May 29, Freedom of speech for a republican pack of lies. Enemies of freedom have usually used this argument in some form. The fact is, of course, that freedom of speech most certainly includes freedom to propagate any pack of lies desired. However, since it also includes the freedom to discuss and refute them, it is self-correcting.

Obviously this self-correcting mechanism does not work either perfectly or immediately; but it does work. Considering the volatility of opponents of America's war effort in Vietnam, it is hard to believe that any "lies" that Professor Huntington might have told would have remained unrefuted.

However, modern academics seem to prefer to suppress a man and then, unheard, to insult him. Against this corruption it is the duty of everyone to protest; thank God for Levin.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN GUINNESS,
Osborne Hall,
Nuneaton,
Warwickshire.
May 29.

A cruiser from Jutland

From Mr J. F. Q. Switzer
Sir, May 31 is the anniversary of the Battle of Jutland. One ship which took part in the battle is still afloat, the light cruiser, HMS Caroline. She was launched in 1914, and is still a commissioned headquarters ship of the Ulster division of the Royal Naval Reserve.

As a nation we have been well served over the preservation of historic buildings. The foresight and energy of the Department of the Environment and its predecessor, the Ministry of Works, of the National Trust, and of many private owners, has given us a wonderful physical record of our national story. The preservation of historic ships however has been almost totally neglected—until recently HMS Victory was the only restored and pre-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Penalties for driving offences

From Sir William Addison and Mr J. B. Horsman
Sir, On November 19 last you printed a letter about the Road Traffic Bill which has now been reintroduced in the House of Lords by the present Government.

We are dismayed that it still proposes to treat more lightly than at present road traffic offences like dangerous driving, driving with excess alcohol, and failing to stop after an accident, which not only flout the law but imperil life and limb. They would cease to be imprisonable by magistrates' courts though the first two categories would remain imprisonable on indictment. Failing to stop, however, can be tried only summarily and the present power to imprison will disappear.

The apparent disregard of the views expressed in the House of Lords on December 20, 1973, by Lord Gardiner and Baroness Wootton of Abinger must surprise all who know how highly both are respected as opponents of imprisonment except when necessary to protect society. They argued forcibly that such offences were indeed a danger to the community and should be recognized as such.

If the Bill is passed in its present form people will be invited to conclude that the consequences of dangerous or "excess alcohol" driving are now regarded as less serious than they used to be. We cannot believe that the public is so complacent that it would accept the appearance to be about deaths and injuries on our roads.

In pleading that the really dangerous offences shall continue to be treated seriously we submit from long experience that a short sentence of imprisonment imposed soon after the offence by a magistrates' court has a greater deterrent effect on other potential offenders than a

longer sentence imposed by the Crown Court months later. To increase the maximum fines from £100 to £400 is merely academic having regard to the means of many of the offenders who come before the general run of magistrates' courts.

Moreover, if serious motoring offences were no longer imprisonable in magistrates' courts, these courts would also be deprived of the power to make orders for attendance centre, detention centre or community service, because these can only be imposed for imprisonable offences. Magistrates would also lose the power to compel a defendant to attend court after conviction (for instance, to find out his means before deciding upon a fine).

If all these consequential powers are removed, juvenile courts in particular will have no adequate sanction for young tearaways convicted of dangerous or "excess alcohol" driving since their means seldom permit substantial fines to be imposed. Those of us who have urged progressive alternatives like community service are indeed discouraged if they are to be ruled out for the road traffic offences, which make up two-thirds of the work of magistrates' courts.

We beg Her Majesty's Government to reconsider these issues. Imprisonment for road traffic offences is very rarely imposed by magistrates' courts (the letter of November 19 gave figures). But the fact that a driver who is dangerous or has excess alcohol may be imprisoned by a magistrates' court is a powerful deterrent to putting others in mortal peril on the roads.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ADDISON,
Chairman, Magistrates' Association,
J. B. HORSMAN,
President, Justices' Clerks' Society,
28 Fitzroy Square, W1.
May 28.

Young offenders

From Mrs E. B. Schaffer
Sir, I note that the Advisory Council on the Penal System in England presses for more non-custodial sentences for young offenders because of the failure and damage caused by custody. This is a conclusion that few who work with young offenders would dispute. However, a cause for concern is that, once again the probation officer is seen as the person who should give supervision in the community.

It is not time that we stopped throwing responsibility for alternatives to custody on to the overburdened and, sometimes, inadequate shoulders of the social workers? Perhaps recent experience in Scotland has made one somewhat sceptical regarding the ability (both in time and experience) of social workers to supervise delinquents adequately.

Why do we not set up a special young offender service, staffed by personnel having specialist skills in working with community work, residential and non-residential social work, psychology and trade skills? The service could have responsibility for young offender institutions, which should range from the closed type now in existence to hostel type accommodation, and also be responsible for all supervision of young offenders in the community.

Ideally each court should have a young offender team attached to assist in the initial decision regard-

ing the most suitable type of supervision—open or closed custody or supervision in the community. If the initial decision proved unsatisfactory the client could be transferred to another area of the service for care.

It is time that we admitted that the care and supervision of young offenders requires not only an enormous investment of time but also highly specialized qualities and training. Social work skills and training are not on an adequate but may also be a handicap. I suggested in Mr David Mathieson's letter to your paper today (May 27), Setting up a new service would, in the long run, be no more expensive than a steady procession of failures due to inadequate care.

In Scotland the Social Work Act of 1968 set up a new and highly successful profession—the reporters to the hearings. This group has developed a professional identity and expertise with astonishing speed and is now giving an extremely effective service.

Patching up old and tired methods and institutions may be quick and, initially, cheap, but is it not time that we tried to break the sad circle of failure with the young offender and tried something new?

Yours faithfully,
E. B. SCHAFER,
Hon. Secretary,
Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency,
8 Woodside Crescent,
Glasgow.
May 27.

Concorde costs

From Lord Orr-Ewing
Sir, In early March the Government estimated the cost of cancelling Concorde at £80m and the cost of completing it at £115m. At the time I stated that the cancellation costs had been grossly underestimated as they had not taken into account compensation to the 300 principal sub-contractors making equipment, nor did they contain any estimate of the cost of compensation to the French.

Later Lord Beswick told the House of Lords that there "would undoubtedly be additional indirect costs and social disbenefits". It is now estimated that the total cancellation cost would not be £80m but £132m (without French compensation). In the meantime progress has been made in constructing the 16 aircraft, another £100m would complete the job.

In the face of these facts we could, by going ahead, save at least £32m and have 16 aircraft to show for our efforts. Surely no government in its senses would scrap these aircraft, the scrapheap before they have had a chance of flying the routes and testing the passenger appeal so confidently predicted.

Yours, etc.,
ORR-EWING,
House of Lords.
May 29.

Middle East terrorism

From Mr Michael Adams
Sir, In your editorial (May 23) about Dr Kissinger's efforts to achieve a disengagement agreement between Syria and Israel, you refer—in terms which I am sure the vast majority of your readers would echo—to the "appalling drama of Maalot" and the "savagery of the Israeli reprisals" which followed against the Lebanon.

However, there is one phrase in this passage of your editorial with which I find it impossible to agree: and from my reading of the public reaction to these events, I believe that many others feel as I do. You write of the Israeli actions against the Lebanon that "because they are reprisals, they are not on the same level of cynical and amoral cruelty" as the massacre at Maalot—although you go on to say, rightly, that they have caused more deaths, not sparing women and children, and have "probably sown the seeds of terrorism in the minds of yet more Palestinian refugees". (I would substitute "certainly" for "probably".)

I hold no brief whatever for the Palestinian action at Maalot; to me it was brutal and senseless. So were the Israeli reprisals—but if there was a difference between the one and the other, surely the reprisals were more cynical and amoral, being the calculated actions of a government with which we maintain polite relations, which is a party to international conventions governing the behaviour of civilized com-

munities, but which in this instance was engaging in deliberate and indiscriminate mass murder of undefended civilians.

To defend such behaviour on the ground that these were reprisals shows a curious (and certainly not a Christian) sense of values. It is also illogical. The Palestinians' action was itself a reprisal, against those who had dispossessed them and built the settlement of Maalot on the ruins of an Arab village. Does this excuse their action in your eyes?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
Brook House,
High Street,
Westminster, Kent.
May 23.

Archaeological heritage

From Mr Henry Cleere
Sir, I read your Archaeological Correspondent's article "Why archaeologists must explore the present" (May 24) with the greatest interest and appreciation. His assessment of the problem confronting archaeologists in Britain is a very perceptive one.

As a result of the growth in the threat to our archaeological heritage, coupled with the increase in Government funds for rescue excavation and survey for 1974-75 to £1,063,000, many more posts are available in Britain for professional archaeologists. The time has come when we must lay down professional standards and to establish their profession as one of equal standing with, for example, engineers, architects and surveyors.

It may interest you to know that the Council for British Archaeology has been aware of this need for some time. In 1973 it set up a working party to examine the whole problem of professionalism in archaeology. One of the recommendations of this working party was that the CBA should encourage the establishment of a professional institution for archaeologists; this recommendation has been approved by the CBA's Executive Committee, and a steering committee has been convened. It is hoped that the new institution will hold its inaugural meeting early in 1975.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY CLEERE,
Director,
Council for British Archaeology,
8 St Andrews Place, NW1.
May 29.

Moats with crocodiles

From Mr George R. W. Slater
Sir, But who is to protect the poor crocodiles when the fans jump in to invade the pitch?

Yours truly,
GEORGE R. W. SLATER,
10 Waverley Court,
Bishopric, Horsham,
Sussex.
May 29.

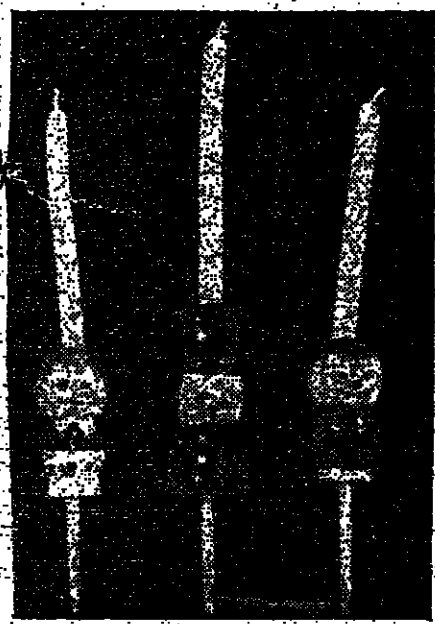
Shopping around

Sheila Black



● Mappin and Webb is the latest firm to have sent me news of its Churchill silver. Garmard went modern, but Mappins has stuck to tradition. The sterling silver goblet is gilded inside, costs £295, and sells in ones, twos, or sixes in presentation boxes. The edition runs to 1,000.

The decanter, also silver and silver gilt, is in an edition of 100 only, sells singly or in pairs, and is decorated with the Marlborough arms (£525 each). The "waiters" or trays (not shown), sell only with complete sets. The diameter is 14in. Also, ten sets are to be made of gold—price on application. All information from Mappin and Webb, 170 Regent Street, London W1R 6BD.



● *Erotic Antiques* is a perfect bedside book, amusing, delightful, full of fun. It is a book of black and white photographs of sculptures and paintings, some famous, some less well known and deserving to be both. It is a shade naughty, never shocking, often bawdy, sometimes purely romantic—and I do mean purely. Pipes, figures on Napoleon watches, Japanese sealboxes, and even matchboxes were among the pieces to carry erotic pictures. Compiled and edited by Harriet Bridgman, with an introduction by Cordie Barland of the British Museum, the book is £3.75, and it should give pleasure to serious antique buyers as well as to people who just want to enjoy it.

Published by Lyle Publications, Glenmayne, Galashiels, Selkirkshire.

If not in your local bookshop, you can add 30p to the price and order by post from AM Supplies, 106 MB Street, Ottery St Mary, Devon.

For birthday cakes, use hand-painted, wooden candle holders that last from occasion to occasion. These are in stock. Divertiment, and available by post, the colourful painted silver set of twelve, the soldiers are all male. Each card holds 12 dolls or 12 soldiers and they cost 96p the card (add 10p for postage). Candles, long and white, are included in the price.

Little sugar animals—hen, duck, lamb or chick, etc., are 13p; miniature sugar fruits are 12p the packet. Sugar rose petals, 13p, and sugar violets, 14p. Tiny sugar Easter eggs are irresistible for cake-makers at 13p the packet—add 5p postage. The address is Divertiment of 58 Marylebone Lane, London, W1 0J 3S 689.

Divertiment's latest catalogue of kitchen and table wares is ready now or posting—send 22p to cover its cost and the postage or call for it—15p without postage.

Marina life: information at your fingertips

This month's *Yachting World* contains an eight-page fold-out guide to the 42 marinas around Britain's coast—where they are, what facilities they offer and what are the costs. Also: six of the latest yacht designs for One-Ton Cup racing; Eric Hecock on New Zealand cruising; 'Down the Hatch'—our regular look at the cruising scene, and much, much more.

Yachting World
with **British Marinas Guide**
35p Out now



● The most important point about any gift, whatever it costs, is the fact of its being chosen especially for you. I am touched when people remember my favourite colours; or when they send cards that have some relevance to my life, to some joke or incident we shared, or to reflect my interests.

So I welcome a new kind of greeting card, which is just right for the occasion when you want to give more than a token but not an expensive present. These cost from around 14p to 18p and, though designed for children of up to about 11 or 12 years old, they would appeal to most grown-ups.

The cards are cut-out pieces to make up into models. Or, rather, most of them are cut-outs, of stiffish card, although there are some pictures to print for the very young and some pictures to make by joining the dots. An ingenious example of a get well card is a snake-and-ladders board in miniature, complete with little card counters to cut out.

All tastes are catered for. My Girl Friday gave her boyfriend a bus and herself a country cottage with roses round the door. Having got the bug, they started inventing excuses to buy more birthday cards to cut out and sat making up the models.

There are five main groups. Action cut-outs are mainly planes, gliders, space-ships and the like, but there are birds and a rocking horse. The swallow really flies and the red-eyed diving horse really rocks against the dark, star-strewn night sky showing on the little landscape painted below him.

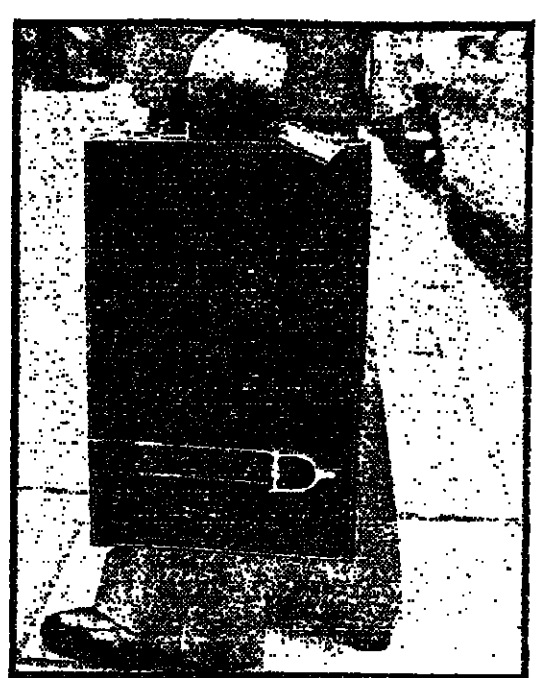
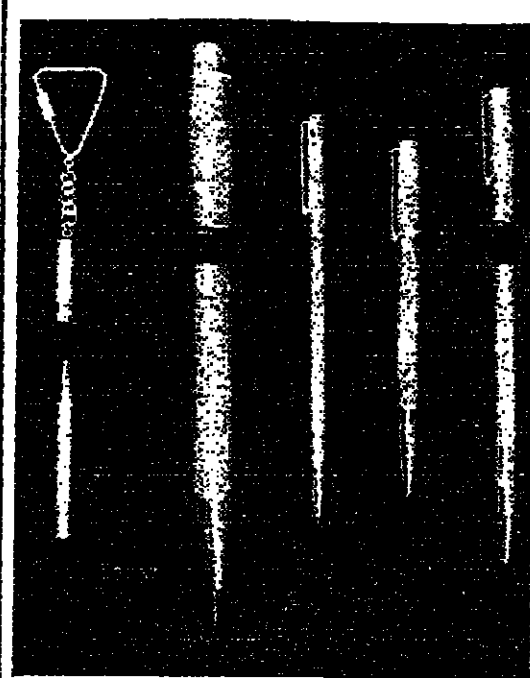
Model cut-outs include dolls houses, dolls to dress, service garage, engines, fire engines, sailboats, ships, the royal coach and a London bus. Cut-outs to wear include finger puppets, jewelry, good and bad fairy disguises, and clown masks.

Board games cover horse trials, snakes and ladders, battleships, and missiles. While colouring or dot-joining cards give a busy airport, jousting, the Horse Guards Parade, the tortoise and the hare, and a jungle.

The instructions are clear, for a change, and the cards measure 8in by 5in folded; in four colours in transparent envelopes, they sell opened so that you can see both sides and they cost the usual rate to post. I just wish they weren't nearly all birthday cards. I feel there should be plenty of no-occasion cards that could be sent at any time just for fun or a thank-you. Now in Harrods, Herts, many House of Fraser stores, Lewis's stores (excluding Selfridges). Distribution is best in south and south-west England but is rapidly moving around. If you want to be advised of local stockists as they materialise, write to Robin Mackness, Shubbery Limited, 1A Grove Place, Bedford.

● Children call it a trumpet, but the maker calls it a Flootatootz and that's the name I like. Assemble it in any shape or length from a series of fit-together plastic pieces in bright colours. It really works, although not all that musically. The mouthpiece makes two notes but elbow components can be clipped on to deepen the sound while straight tubes—with holes to vary the note—make it even deeper. In stock now at Hamleys of 200/202 Regent Street, London W1R 5DF and made by Kiddicraft. It costs £2.20 (add 20p for postage).

Photograph by Trevor Sutton



● An Odyssey in any games room brings a new dimension to ping pong or billiards because Odyssey gives you games to play on a television screen.

It consists of a master unit, about 14in by 9in, which plugs into the aerial point of your television set. Pick a cassette of the sport of your choice—table tennis, tennis or hockey—and clip it into the master unit. You then release the ball and turn knobs on the master unit to guide your bats or racquets to field, return, or serve the ball. You can even put a curve on the ball to fool your opponent but you have to be pretty quick with the knobs. A rifle range attachment is £25 extra.

Odyssey is made in the United States by Magnavox, the big electronics firm, and converted here to fit British sets. I found myself better at tennis than I thought—this is a game for quick reactions, but you don't have to dash all over a court but can just stand there and play. Not that I mind the dashing, but courts aren't easy to book in London. Odyssey costs £110 (VAT included) from Ectetera Gift Boutiques in Golders Green, Edware and St John's Wood (see London's directory for addresses). Mail order can be handled from the branch at 47 Golders Green Road, London, NW11 0J 455 3441.

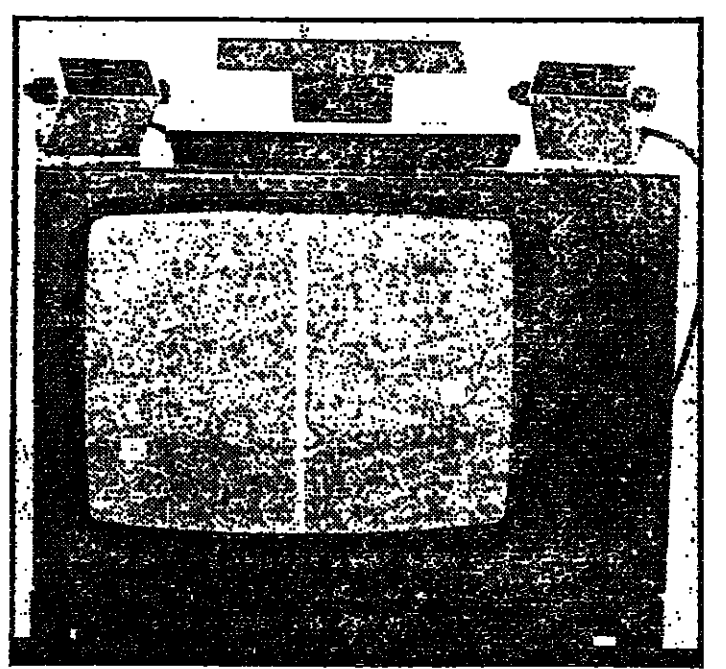
Also at Ectetera is an elegant range of silver pens to take standard refills, felt-tipped or ballpoint. I love the thick one, which is very comfortable to hold, and which holds an ordinary standard ballpoint. Very pretty too, is one attached to a triangular key-ring (a contradiction in terms). The pen screws into the top so that it does not keep coming apart. The

pen is small to hold when it comes to writing, but they are tempting. Prices are from £21 to £27.50 and they can be posted.

The executive brief case is really something. You can say it should be at £75. But it is £75 so much, these days, for something that is perfectly conceived and made in every detail and of such high-quality leather, in rich-looking, dark-tobacco brown with best brass fittings? A traditional brief case of similar quality would cost about the same.

This brief case is different in that the handle is on the narrower edge, so that you carry

it as a long case instead of too wide a case (see picture). It was made because Jeffrey Rosen, who runs the Ectetera shops with his brother, Arnold, found himself always banging his brief case into other people in the crowded streets of Hong-kong. He turned the case sideways and carried it under his arm, then, after getting back to England, had this new, obvious-yet-unthought-of design made up. Women love it, too, because it is smart and even obviates the need for an extra handbag. It measures 17½ inches by 11 inches by 3 inches and it is not too light, but it looks every penny of its price.

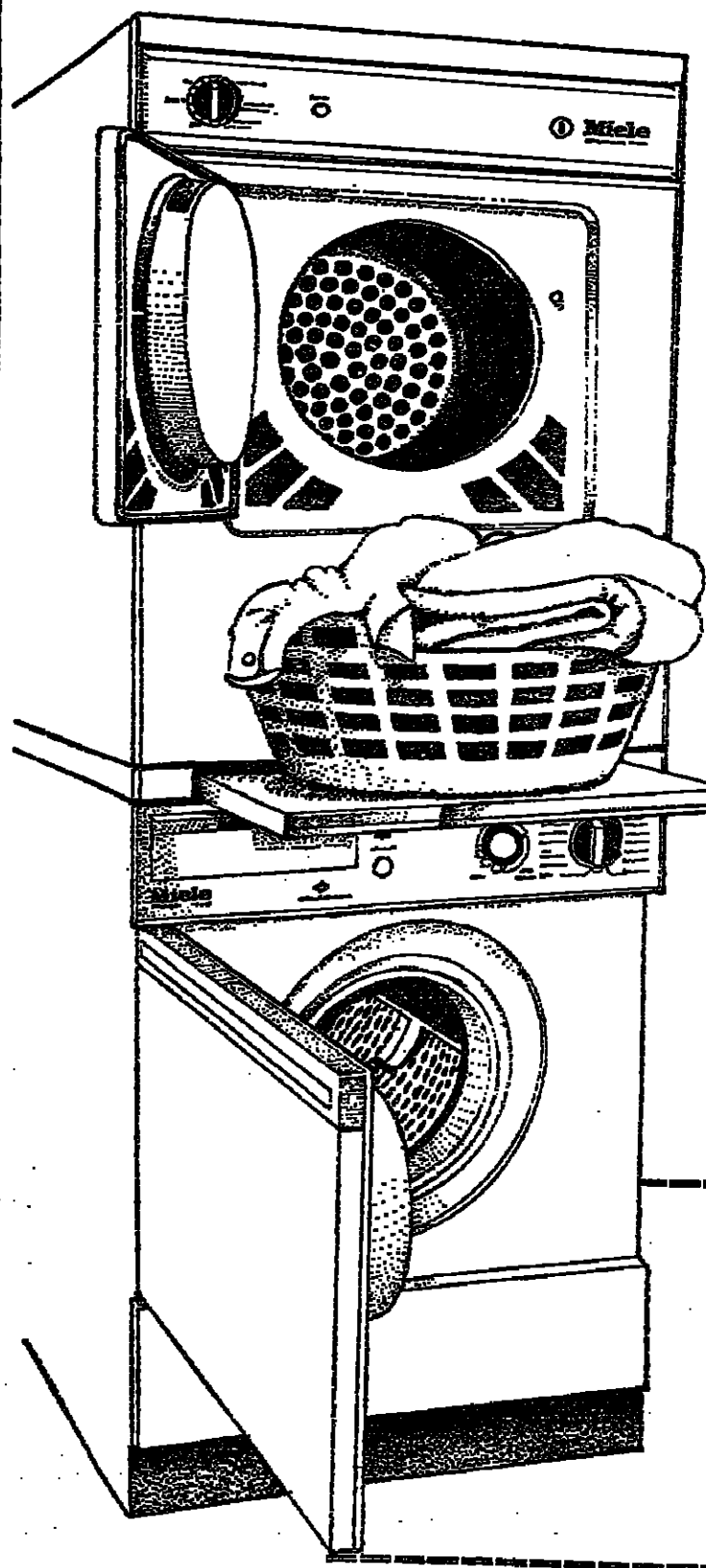


● I like to drive with a copy of the CoSira handbook always in the glove compartment with the road maps. This little book, the guide to "Craft Shops in the Countryside" is now plumper than ever and lists over a thousand country craft workshops and shops where you can buy anything from pottery to horse blankets and wrought iron. Listed by county, with opening hours and other details, the guide is

useful reading.

The book costs 25p, but, with your money, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope measuring at least 9" x 6"—the stamp should be 8p. Orders from the compiler and publisher, which is the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas, 35 Camp Road, London SW19 4UP.

The Miele wash-and-dry stack. Perfect washing with perfect drying on top.



This is it. The ultimate in home laundry. A Miele 443 washing machine with a Miele 332 electronic tumble dryer stacked neatly on top.

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Why not find out about all the other unique features by posting the coupon today?

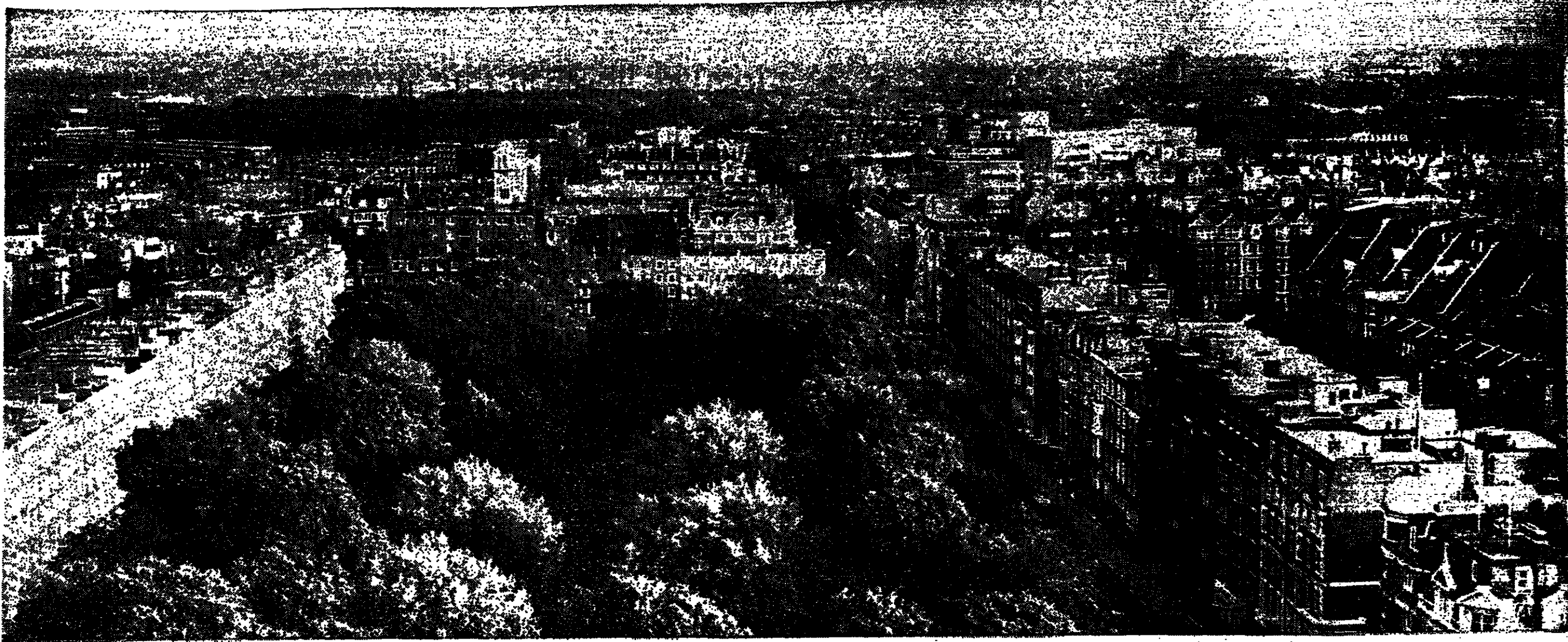
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Please send me more information about Europe's finest washing machines and tumble dryers, and a list of places I might see them demonstrated.

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SETS THE STANDARD



THE CARLTON TOWER point-of-view

You have to come up to the 18th floor of London's Carlton Tower to discover an unsurpassed view that has come to symbolize this hotel's point-of-view.

Step from the air-conditioned elegance of the Tower Suite onto a south-facing terrace.

Plumb at your feet there's Cadogan Place, the local residential park frequented by nannies from the nearby town houses, and regarded affectionately as The Carlton Tower's 'front garden'. Let your eye survey the glossy stucco façades of Belgravia, soar right along over the bijou boutiques of Chelsea, across the Thames, and as far as the Surrey Hills.

Now take a turn about this 18th floor. From the adjoining Belgravia Suite (cane chairs as the Raj might have known them) you're facing east - and that presents you with the other, landmarked side of London: Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's.

Unfussed urbanity

That is The Carlton Tower point-of-view: to be the modern luxury hotel that lets you know you're in London by the traditional grace of its welcome, the sumptuous contemporaneity of its style, the unfussed urbanity of what habitués come to appreciate as The Carlton Tower way-of-life: in London, very much of London, formal and fizzing all in one unflurried sweep.

Take an elevator down a floor or two and come inside one of the hotel's newly-decorated luxury suites - a fantasia of silvers and greens, where impish harlequins and columbines wink at you from the walls: another aspect of The Carlton Tower point-of-view.

Marco Polo wrote of the hotel system set up by the Great Khan: "These were large, handsome buildings, having several well-furnished apartments, hung with silk, and provided with everything suitable to persons of rank. Even kings may be lodged here in a becoming manner."

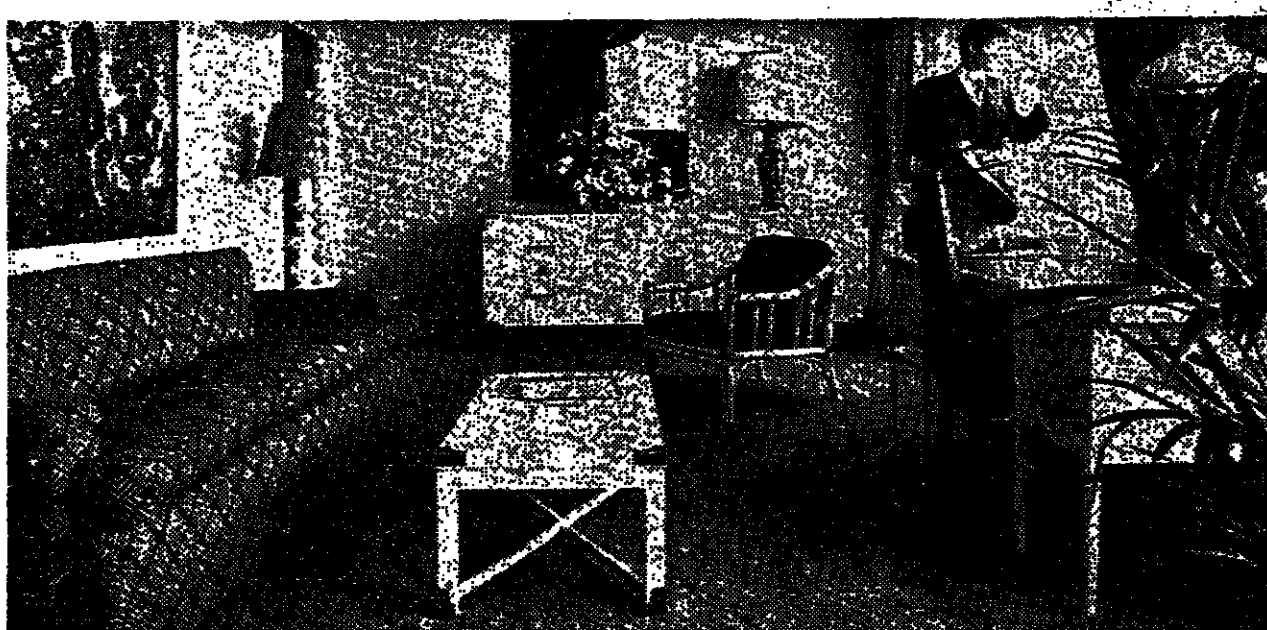
There's something of that spirit about The Carlton Tower's new luxury suites. One almost has to ask, Can this be a hotel room? before remembering that when you stay at The Carlton Tower it becomes your home. For this is the hotel whose modest assertion is that guests don't merely stay here - they live here. (And whenever they're living at The Carlton Tower, the hotel preserves to perfection its famous guests' anonymity.)

Unmistakable

Come, let's sit down in this room as the sun pours in from the west, a great golden stream of light. (As in every one of the hotel's 320 rooms, there's air-conditioning to make sure you stay cool, double-glazing to keep London's roar down to a tiny whisper: this is your room, after all.)

Call for service at four in the afternoon after a day in town about business or around the stores: savour a tea from India or Cathay that will brace the chafed spirit: they do also serve stronger liquors.

Or call for service at four in the morning.



(Top) The southern view, from the terrace of the Tower Suite on the 18th floor of The Carlton Tower. (1) The Green Room, one of six amazing newly-decorated luxury suites. (2) Chelsea Flower Show conffection specially created by chef de pâtisserie Robert Mey. (3) Topolski prints amid the roast beef: a Rib Room point-of-view.

after a night about town whisking from theatre to cabaret and home again: The Carlton Tower will always greet you, smiling and attentive.

There's a certain unmistakable zest about a successful modern enterprise. Drake and Raleigh would recognize its scent. It's in the very sparkle of a lyric by Noel Coward.

That's another aspect of The Carlton Tower point-of-view. You'll find it, for example, in the hotel's famous Rib Room amid the finest roast beef in all England.

Escoffier himself

The selection of prime beef for the Rib Room is an art. Chef de cuisine Bernard Gaume seeks, in a manner that Escoffier himself would approve, for meat with a grain that is smooth, as in fine silk. He finds the piece that's perfect. Then the beef is hung for at least two weeks at 38°F.

And then, ah, then it's just right. Not much sparkle there, you say, in the cold-room of a big meat wholesaler?

But when you eat it, ah, then, all the care taken sparkles then.

Look about you as you eat and drink at these Topolski prints upon the wall: another Carlton Tower point-of-view. Isn't there a sparkle about them, too, in that dashing line, that sudden surprising swirl of colour.

Stylish insouciance

No, Topolski isn't exactly a typical London name. Your fellow-guests aren't all exactly typical Londoners - though a certain stylish insouciance tells you that some of them are bound to be. For the rest - international conductors of music and finance, old stager diplomats (young ones, too) and actresses whose beauty gives them comparable influence - The Carlton Tower is their home in London.

And when you've eaten almost your fill of that superb beef, let Robert Mey, chef de pâtisserie, kindle a fresh light in your eyes with one of his feather-weight confections. What is it today, Robert? Something topical, perhaps, like his Chelsea Flower Show display, a demonstration of dahlias, sweet as the sugar they're spun from, in a vase (still of sugar and natural food colourings) that's as delicate and shapely as ever Venetian glass-master blew.

Effortless panache

The Carlton Tower is more than a hotel, more than just a place where travellers eat and sleep and eat and go away again. It began as a determination to do only what's best. It became a humming hive (but quietly humming!) where all that's best is carried out with a kind of effortless panache.

The hotel is modern and young and mettlesome enough - but conscious, too, of its place in London's great hotelier tradition.

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The expatriate Greek and other shipowners who forgather in the congenial setting of Athens next week for what is rapidly becoming the established ritual of the Posidonia maritime exhibition will have much to think about. World shipping is more than usually beset with uncertainties, some of which are the uncertainties of the world at large and others specifically of shipping.

How fast will world trade expand in the next two decades compared with the last? Or will it, as some suggest, not expand at all? What will be the effect of the massive change in the balance of economic power that is taking place between the industrialised nations and the primary producers, and the producers of oil? To what extent will this change in the balance of economic power be reflected in a reinforcement of the free market, so it was said, to pay off the entire cost of a ship with a year or two's earnings. By the end of the year, with the Middle East oil embargo at its height, rates had fallen nearly to the slump level of 1971-72, and they have still only partly recovered.

market are notoriously suspect, and indeed there are those who say that provided you always do the opposite of what the pundits are telling you to do, you will not go far wrong.

Certainly many qualifications could be applied to the proposition that tanker tonnage will be heavily in surplus for many years ahead, especially if the Suez Canal is opened. Will all those tankers now on order actually be delivered on time, against a background of financial and industrial troubles in the shipbuilding countries, and lack of enthusiasm for early delivery on the part of owners?

Will the carrying capacity of the world tanker fleet rise as the crude projected tonnage figures suggest, or will it be reduced, as Mr E. Bowyer, of Shell, suggested at the recent Seatrade symposium in London, by increasing complexities and

consequent inefficiencies in the pattern of world oil movements, and by the high cost of bunker fuel. Slow steaming has always been, as he noted, an ideal way to match capacity to demand, but in an era of cheap fuel there is no sense. With bunkers up from \$15 a ton to \$70, a range of delivery options for the same cargo becomes feasible, and slow steaming could become a regular feature of ship operation.

Will the main producers restrict oil as they have suggested? And will the United States become self-sufficient by 1980? The latter objective, as domestic environmentalists take up the cudgels against some of its likely side effects, is apparently beginning to recede. Dry cargo rates have held up far better in the past year, largely because of the continued grain shipments to Russia and China, and while

a prolonged slump in tanker rates must affect dry cargo rates, particularly for large vessels that switch from one trade to another, the prospects are generally considered far less gloomy.

On the assumption that the Arabs will not wish to rock the world industrial and economic boat, that more wealth will find its way into the coffers of the developing nations, and that, as in the oil trades, the dry bulk trades may become more complex, good prospects are held out for smaller bulk-carriers and conventional liners and tramp.

Apart from their unremitting efforts to keep rates in line with ever-rising costs, the current preoccupation of the liner trades is the International Code of Conduct promulgated by the United Nations' Conference on Trade and Development recent meeting in Geneva, and to what extent it will be translated into action.

Conferring specific shares of trade to those at either end (40 per cent each) and to cross-traders (10 per cent) it would radically alter the traditional pattern in many trades to the disadvantage of the developed countries, and by introducing a larger element of state control inhibit the commercial freedom of the lines.

So far as the developing countries are concerned—and they are sufficiently in a majority to have carried the day—the code marks a signal advance in correcting the political and economic imbalance between themselves and the developed countries in shipping. Others, needless to say, take a different view. The maritime states making up the International Chamber of Shipping declared that the convention would produce

insurmountable practical problems and would therefore be unworkable.

The president of the United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping, Mr Lindsay Alexander, put it no less forthrightly. "It is difficult to conceive of a more inept and damaging attempt at international legislation than this code", he said. It was the first attempt by the United Nations conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at an international convention, and it had been voted through, warts and all, by sheer weight of numbers without adequate discussion or legal drafting. "The labour of Hercules was as nothing to the task facing UNCTAD," Mr Alexander added, "and unfortunately UNCTAD is no Hercules".

In the long term the code could have the effect of shifting the ownership of the world fleet more in the

direction of the have-nots of the past as developing countries take up in one form or another entitlements they are not at present able to. But this seems likely to be happening in any event as a result of oil wealth and other changes in economic power.

Whatever the adjustments to present patterns of ownership and jurisdiction in shipping, the overriding consideration is: what is going to happen to world trade? And while there are many "doom-watchers" about, predicting that economic growth must stop if the earth and its inhabitants are to survive, their view does not at present seem to be shared by many shipowners. Rough waters doubtless lie ahead for some, they would say; but trade will still move, and ships will still be needed to move it.

Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

Tough taxation proposals would cut City's role

by Robert Hawkins
managing editor,
Seatrade

The City of London, over the past 10 years and particularly over the past five, has established for itself a monopoly of the ship finance market. Over the next four years the world's ship order book is expected to require finance amounting to \$40,000m to \$50,000m. This time last year, there was no doubt that the larger part of it would be negotiated in London through the banks, brokers and finance houses. The Finance Bill at present going through the House of Commons has changed the picture, and London's participation in ship finance and support services is expected to decline significantly if the Bill is passed in its present form.

The reasons for London's rise to prominence are many, not the least being its traditional role as both a money centre and a centre of British shipping. The improvement in its position over the past decade, however, has arisen from the migration of a large number of shipowners from New York in the late 1950s, after a United States Government demand that their worldwide personal earnings be disclosed for tax purposes.

Wall Street's influence as a ship and money centre further declined when the foreign shipping and ship interest equalization tax was imposed in the early 1960s. London taxed only earnings



The partly completed hull of a 26,000-ton Cardiff class bulk carrier being built for the Cardigan Shipping Company by Govan Shipbuilders.

remitted to the United Kingdom. At the same time, the Euro money market developed, to replace the loss of the American dollar market, and London became a magnet for American banks prospering, increasing their business and stature.

Many of the New York banks fled to London, to join and be joined by other further declined when the foreign shipping and ship interest equalization tax was imposed in the early 1960s. London taxed only earnings

In the past four or five years particularly, foreign banks in the City turned their attention to that apparently new and shining star, ship finance. British banks prospered, increasing their business and stature. New arrivals to the ship

finance market are inclined to cause raised eyebrows by declaring that ship finance "is like any other financing business", or, still worse, "is like real estate finance". Shipping's highly cyclical nature, its fluctuating asset values, its uncertain cash flows and ultimately its depreciating capital values place it in a special category.

The arrival of banking newcomers into the market was both good and bad—bad because they sometimes ignored safe and prudent financing methods in favour of marginal operations, and good because they (especially the Americans and the British merchant banks) introduced methods which helped shipping as it entered upon a period of soaring costs.

Individual shipowners were becoming too big for one bank to handle, and the amounts of money needed to finance one fleet were growing too large for one country to support nationally, especially as shipowners do not necessarily use domestic shipyards.

In short, a non-national market was emerging in the shipping world, and London was its centre. Around this nucleus, the Baltic Exchange, the British broking houses, the United Kingdom marine equipment industry, the finance and insurance markets all flourished.

The kind of pressure the market is under and the expert knowledge needed are illustrated by the fact that supertankers of 250,000 tons now cost up to \$45m to \$50m. Last year the supertanker was riding high, its long-term future assured. Loans to well over the conventional 80 per cent of value were being advanced, often by newcomers, and percentage spreads (the profits of bankers) were being forced down from 1.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent by the weight of world liquidity.

This year the future of the supertanker is in popular doubt, because of overtoning reflected in the world's order-books until 1977, and disillusionment with the Middle East as a reliable source of crude oil supplies.

While the future of dry bulk carriers, smaller oil tankers, petroleum products carriers and liquid gas carriers now appears soured, and these seem therefore good financing propositions, it is a brave owner who will buy a supertanker and a brave banker who will finance it.

Certain key trends are coming out of London: charters (which ensure cash flow) need to be extended from the popular three years of recent times, and escalation clauses need to be tied to some kind of operating inflation index suitable to charter parties.

If the worst came to the worst, and supertankers became unsalable, prices would drop drastically. Deals involving supertankers as loan security would begin to look uncertain. As it is, the current atmosphere has driven away the easy lenders, and percentage spreads are back to what have been called reasonable levels.

continued on page 11

Shipbuilding order books remain full

by Peter Hill

The world's shipbuilding industry has never experienced a year like 1973. The rate of contracting for new tonnage was unprecedented, with the result that the order books of the world's shipyards now stretch well into 1977 and in a considerable number of cases beyond into 1979.

Even against the background of the Middle East war and the oil price and supply upheavals, owners have continued to place orders. Although the pace of new ordering has returned to a more conventional level during the first quarter of this year, the volume of tonnage contracted worldwide was more than the industry's output.

This slowing down in deliveries is largely attributable to the effects of the energy crisis on the levels of production in some of the world's leading shipbuilding nations, notably Japan. While output can be expected to pick up again during the year as the difficulties become less pronounced, the sheer lack of capacity is likely to limit the ability of shipbuilders to accept substantial additional new tonnage.

By the end of 1973 the world order book, according to Lloyd's Register of Shipping figures, amounted to almost 129 million tons gross. During the first three months of this year it was

swelled further to a record 133,400,000 tons gross.

Japan, which has dominated the world shipbuilding industry for so long, managed to increase her order book by 2,400,000 tons gross in the first quarter to nearly 62 million tons—that in spite of the energy crisis. Sweden followed with 11 million tons, then came West Germany and Spain (which has been inching up the world league table steadily), each with 7,600,000 tons.

Britain, too, has shared the fruits of the ordering boom, but slipped a place in the latest listing to fifth position with an order book of 7,300,000 tons. There was predictably a marked decline in the volume of new orders gained compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

In the Greek industry, which has made steady progress, shipyards have orders for a wide range of ship types ranging from bulk carriers and products tankers to passenger car ferries, and deliveries stretch into 1976. The yards, building principally for domestic owners, had orders at the end of March for 71 ships totalling 376,179 tons gross.

During 1973 Greek shipyards launched 156,224 tons gross (representing 0.50 per cent of the world launchings of 31,500,000 tons) but this marked a sharp upturn on the 95,866 tons gross launched the previous year.

A prominent feature of the world shipbuilding industry's order book is the emphasis on oil tankers which Greek owners have done so much to pioneer. At the end of the first quarter more than 75 per cent of the world order book consisted of tanker tonnage.

The size of the world tanker order book, in the wake of the action of the principal Middle Eastern oil-producing countries and the uncertainty which surrounds their future policy, has led to serious concern about the requirement for this vast additional tonnage. Indeed, the world could well be faced with a surplus of tanker tonnage next year, and there has been a marked reluctance by many financial institutions in recent months to commit funds to further heavy investment in tankers.

Another factor which weighs heavily is the huge increase in size of individual tankers in demand. Last year owners' demands moved rapidly upwards from 300,000-ton deadweight vessels to 350,000 tons and even further to tankers of 400,000 tons and more. With the realistic prospect of the Suez Canal being reopened, dredged and ultimately widened to accommodate larger vessels, the future role of the very large crude carrier is under review. If the Canal is opened, the requirement for large units shipping oil from the Ara-

bian Gulf round the tip of Africa will be reduced. But if tanker size has increased so have prices for all types of ships, to the extent that during the course of last year prices on all types of ship rose by between 40 and 60 per cent—with the largest increase being recorded for tankers. Faced with lengthening order books and bedevilled by international currency fluctuations and continued inflation, shipbuilders throughout the world have sought and obtained contracts which provide for a measure of cost escalation to be built into a contract over the period from signing to delivery.

The effects of inflation on fixed price contracts taken in the late 1960s are still fresh in the minds of many shipbuilders, and even Japan, which traditionally has offered owners prompt deliveries and fixed prices, has been obliged to seek cost escalation clauses.

Prospects are encouraging for shipbuilders—even if freight markets do become depressed. They will, however, be cautious in booking too far ahead. In the medium and longer term there are a number of potential difficulties, among them the harmonization or abolition of subsidies, and the threat of overcapacity caused by the entry of developing countries into shipbuilding.

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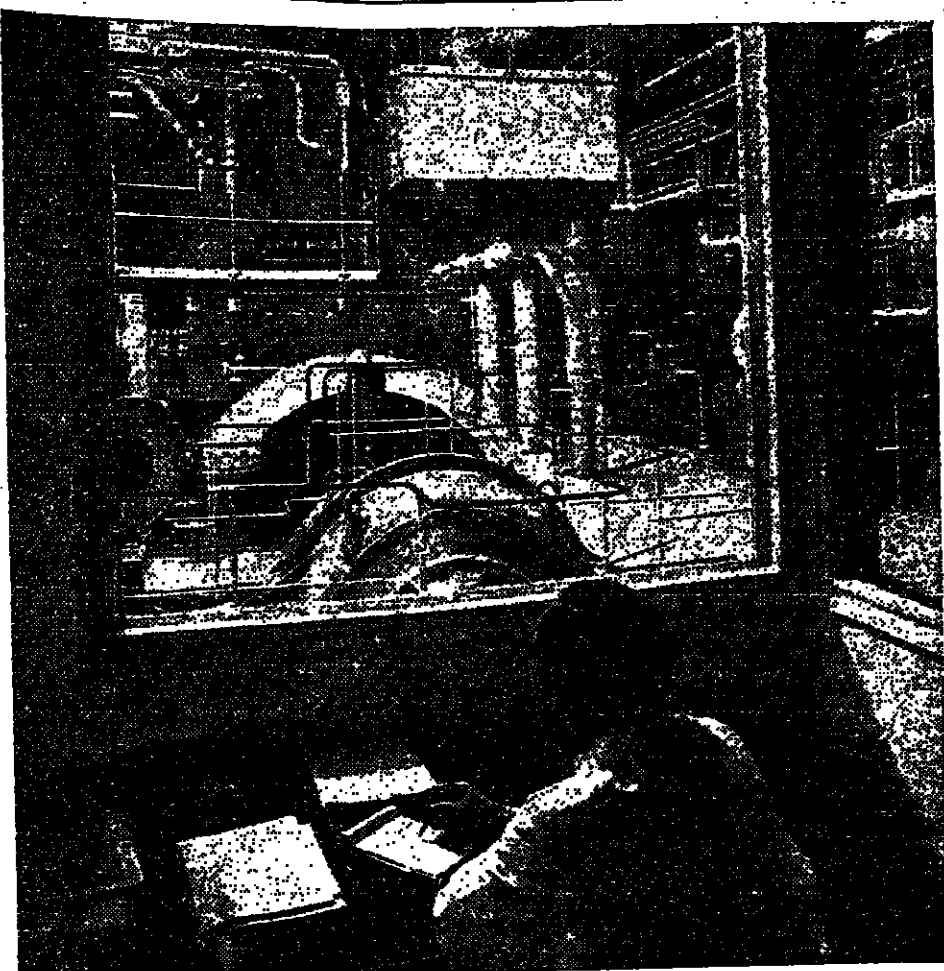
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Worldwide stringencies in fuel and finance may turn Posidonia 1974, in Athens, into even more of a serious symposium than was the 1972 gathering seen above.

'Unpredicted changes' favour use of nuclear fuel

by Pearce Wright
Science Correspondent

After several years, apparently in the doldrums, the nuclear-propelled merchant ship faces a surge of revived interest. Rising oil costs have been an inevitable factor in the resurgence. There are also other critical factors making nuclear propulsion a more attractive proposition than seemed likely when the Americans, West Germans and Russians decided to build the first three atomic-powered vessels.

In a flurry of activity, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority has reopened technical cooperation with the German specialists who for six years have operated the nuclear vessel, *Otto Hahn*. It has been used as a research and bulk cargo ship for determining the economics and technical maintenance problems involved.

The other ships are the USSR's *Lenin*, launched in 1959 as an icebreaker, and the United States *Savannah* that put to sea three years later as a cargo and passenger vessel. The American ship has been laid up after completing 470,000 miles. None of these vessels was an economic venture compared with conventional ships of the same tonnage and engine capacity. When the first keel for a nuclear merchantman was laid down the idea of super-tankers and fast container ships had not even germinated in the ship designer's mind. Only three years ago the British Government issued the findings of a special review that nuclear support for nuclear project could not be recommended.

Nevertheless, even before the immediate energy crisis precipitated by the recent Middle East conflict, the prospects for nuclear ships were already being evaluated for German, American and Japanese fleets.

The nuclear designers and shipbuilders involved in pioneering work on the *Savannah* and the *Otto Hahn*

had maintained that ships needed to be four or five times the size of either of these vessels for nuclear propulsion to be economic. The *Savannah* is 9,400 tons with a 20,000 horsepower nuclear plant. *Otto Hahn's* vital statistics are 14,000 tons and 10,000 hp.

When the first of these was being built the largest foreseeable tanker was about 65,000 tons needing a 20,000 hp engine. In the interim the 200,000 ton tanker has become commonplace. Even larger ones are in service, in fact 500,000 tonners are being built and designs for one million ton versions, calling for 100,000 hp drives, are at an advanced stage.

Over the same period, the unexpected container revolution occurred. Now there are 50 ships of 60,000 hp and bigger ones coming on the scene with 120,000 hp shaft drives capable of producing 33 knots.

This unpredicted change of shape, size and speeds opens great opportunities for nuclear ships. On most of the projections published about the advantages of nuclear fuels over fossil fuels conditions are ideal for an atomic takeover.

Despite all this evidence in favour of the new system, there is still no nuclear-propelled merchant vessel built under commercial terms for competitive work in the strict economic sense. One reason lies in the high capital costs which offset the lower fuel charges.

In fact the high capital charges figures prominently in the British Government report of three years ago. The total machinery for a nuclear system providing 62,000 hp was estimated as £5.8m and for 130,000 hp at £8.5m. These figures were well above twice the costs of conventional equipment. However, the analysis indicated that if fossil fuel increased by 70 per cent to 200 per cent in real terms, and the capital cost of nuclear reactors and fuel dropped by 50 per cent, or if a combination of cir-

cumstances arose, then the situation would look much more promising.

Contrary to belief, the world reserves of uranium are not enormous and the price of nuclear fuel is unlikely to remain stable over the next few years. On the other hand, there have been many advances in the design of reactors for cutting capital costs while giving greater efficiency in the use of fuel. Compared with the present uncontrolled climb in oil prices, nuclear fuel looks a very stable commodity.

Designers and operators of shipborne reactors also seem to be far more successful than their colleagues who build the bigger variety of reactor on land for power stations.

The first operational plant for ships was in nuclear submarines. Although there are now more than 230 of these, in addition to 10 surface naval vessels, little of this operational experience is available to the civilian sector.

It turns out that the type of reactor used for submarine work has technical characteristics that are achieved at a colossal expense. So for technical reasons, as well as the vast difference in seagoing management between the military and merchant ship, this secrecy is not a great handicap to merchant development.

All nuclear reactors are simply a source of heat, and the main problem is to devise a method of taking the heat from the core to generate steam. In theory, one load of nuclear fuel is sufficient for a reactor for four to five years, thus removing the need for regular bunkering and saving time. In practice, refuelling, maintenance, safety reviews and other operational matters are more complicated.

Extremely complex legal questions remain over the liabilities of those owning nuclear merchant ships. And these uncertainties are likely to moderate undue haste in development.

Tough taxation proposals

continued from page 1

Experienced owners and bankers will come through as they always do. It is not easy to see the circumstances in which large tankers will return suddenly to favour, but shipping is such that the unexpected is always expected.

The unique ability of the City to generate the special talents capable of financing and servicing the unpredictable shipping market is, according to first-hand opinion, particularly from London Greeks, in imminent danger of substantial diminution.

Taxation as a British citizen after nine out of 10 years residence (which the Finance Bill envisages) will hit the established foundation on which the unique edifice rests. Treatment of imported capital (to supple-

ment net British personal salaries) as income will have the effect of more than quadrupling the salary of an experienced man in London who wishes to maintain his standard of living.

But tough British taxation rates apart, it was the necessity to disclose all foreign sources of income which drove the Greeks from New York, and according to Greeks in London it will drive them from the United Kingdom. Branch office status will be London's lot if they go.

Most foreign residents in the United Kingdom agree that a certain level of taxation is unavoidable, and, in approaching the problem positively, suggest that a solution can be found to the disclosure requirement, and acceptable taxation levels established which will not drive them away. That there has been abuse of the tax-

remittance-only system, which allowed foreigners to buy houses in the United Kingdom on advantageous personal terms, is recognized.

It is significant that the British business counterparts of foreign residents are lobbying Parliament to amend the Bill, pointing out that the success of the City is divorced from the problems of the domestic economy and contributes towards invisible earnings and employment. Lloyd's and the Baltic have dispatched strongly worded letters expressing their fears. If the Bill goes through in its present form, within a year the exodus will be felt, and London companies could well be setting up foreign branches in pursuit of their clients.

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Specialist carrier costs compel close study of employment prospects

by Christopher Hayman
editor, *Seatrade*

The increasing need to transport bulky cargoes by sea is placing a corresponding burden on those whose responsibility it is to produce the ships to carry them. Those two fashionable energy sources, natural gas and petroleum gas, need to be transported at extremely low temperatures in the liquid form. The same sort of advanced hardware is needed for ships built for the carriage of vegetable oils or highly corrosive chemicals.

Obviously this sort of technology adds considerably to the cost of such ships at a time when world shipbuilding prices are already responding with elasticity to materials and labour cost inflation. Consequently it is important that the shipowner does his homework carefully before placing orders for these "big ticket" ships.

With the price of a liquid natural gas (LNG) carrier of 125,000 cubic metres now pushing the \$110m (\$44m) mark it is not surprising that there are few of these vessels in the yard order books that are not tied to a particular gas supply project, and therefore have guaranteed employment for a substantial chunk of their life. The ships on order for Esso Transportation Corporation of New York, for example, are chartered for 25 years to Burnah Oil for use on the Esso Gas project bringing Algerian LNG to the United States and a further gas project between Indonesia and Japan.

Security of this sort is obviously not available for all capital intensive specialist ships. It is necessary therefore for shipowners to look closely at the medium and long term prospects for vessels of various kinds. Most of the pundits are making bullish noises about forward prospects for liquid petroleum gas (LPG) carriers, for example, predicting a substantial increase in the level of American im-

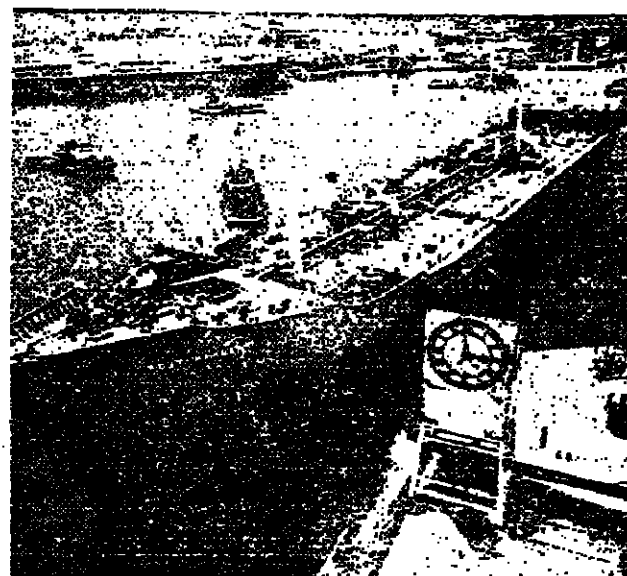
ports during the rest of the decade, though this is somewhat counteracted by a belief that the boom in Japanese imports has already been over contracted for.

Certainly in the last year there has been a fairly brisk level of ordering for LPG ships. About a month ago five ships of 75,000 cubic metres were ordered in Finland by Norwegian and American owners. It is also significant that the Arab energy producers, mirroring their activity in the tanker trades, have moved into LPG shipping. Kuwait interests have ordered four ships, and an LPG shipping company had been set up in Kuwait with the cooperation of one of the established western energy producers, mirroring their activity in the tanker trades, have moved into LPG shipping. Kuwait interests have ordered four ships, and an LPG shipping company had been set up in Kuwait with the cooperation of one of the established western energy producers, mirroring their activity in the tanker trades, have moved into LPG shipping.

An owner needs to be sure where his ships will find employment, particularly since the standards required of them vary from country to country. The United States Coastguard has the most stringent safeguards and it has been estimated that the technology necessary to comply with these regulations can make a ship anything up to 20 per cent more expensive than if it were to be employed in the Japan trade.

LPG ship prices have been rising anyway at a rate which matches if not surpasses that of an LNG equivalent. As an illustration, two 50,000 cubic metre ships ordered by Universal Gas and Oil, a Maritime Fruit Carriers subsidiary, at a price of \$26m were sold recently for about \$34m.

With both of these types of ship, sizes have been increasing over the past two years. At present the largest LPG carrier is the 100,000 cubic metre Esso Fujii, but there are already designs in existence, though no ships have been ordered, for vessels of 125,000 cubic metres, the size which has become the norm for LNG ships. In both these areas there has clearly to be sufficient in the way of shore facilities to handle bigger cargoes. This, together with the fact that



A ship of the Panoean fleet of parcel tankers which can carry incompatible chemicals in separate tanks.

for LNG ships size and unit cost are substantially linear, is expected to have the effect of slowing any move towards further increase in size.

Though some of the LNG import programmes into the United States are facing problems there are clearly good prospects in the long term for LNG shipping. The United States Maritime Administration is now predicting a probable requirement of 39 LNG ships by 1990 to satisfy American needs. Already as many as 15 of these ships are on order in American yards, and while in other areas United States shipbuilders require a subsidy to bring their prices in line with Europe and Japan, in the LNG field they can be competitive on series construction, and therefore it is by no means beyond the realm of possibility that they will soon be building for export.

The movement of the more *recherché* chemicals and edible oils by sea presents different obstacles from those confronting the LPG and LNG trades. Cargoes are generally far smaller, and parcel tankers

have been developed which have the ability to carry incompatible chemicals in separate tanks. The largest vessels may have anything up to 40 separate tanks constructed of various different metals with a variety of coatings. It is the diversity of the trade which makes predictions of demand difficult to make.

Only a small number of shipowners are involved in this esoteric world, and of these most are either Scandinavian or British. Flexibility is of the first importance. The parcel tanker for the most part serves a large number of customers on a number of specific routes, and since the arrival of the vessel may not always coincide with the needs of the customer, many operators have invested in storage tanks in key areas to provide extra service. Panoean, for example, which is jointly owned by Ocean Transport and Trading and P & O of Britain, has tanks at strategic locations in Western Europe.

American oil rig experts become more amenable to joint ventures

by Roger Vielvoys
Energy Correspondent

New sources of crude oil in politically stable countries outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have taken on a new importance in the past 12 months. State participation in the main oil producing areas of the Middle East and North Africa has robbed the major oil companies of direct control of large amounts of crude oil.

The companies have attempted to maintain flexibility and security in supplies by developing alternatives to oil from these areas. At the same time, the quadrupling of oil prices since October has made it feasible to explore for oil in areas, such as the deeper offshore areas of northern Europe, North America and the Arctic, where previously prospecting would have been uneconomic because of the cost of getting the oil to the consumer.

To ensure that these alternative sources are effectively and quickly developed the offshore exploration and engineering industry must expand at a remarkable rate. The first stage in this operation is the provision of drilling rigs to seek the offshore fields and then determine their size and commercial viability. The North Sea is occupying the prime position in the drilling contractors' planning schedules, but other areas including the United States and Canada are likely to come into prominence as new offshore

exploration leases are distributed.

At the end of 1973 there was a total fleet of 246 drilling vessels in operation, and a further 221 units on order, according to H. P. Drewry, ship brokers and consultants, in a report on offshore drilling rigs published in March. Of the operational fleet 124 were jack-up rigs, and only three of these were capable of drilling in water more than 350ft deep. There were 21 submersible drilling barges, and all except one had an operational limit under 150ft.

Work in the deeper waters—over 500ft—where the bulk of the exciting new prospects are to be found, has to be undertaken by the giant semi-submersible drilling structures or by drill ships. Forty-six semi-submersible structures are available, and 38 of these are designed for operating in water between 500ft and 750ft deep.

Thirty-two of the 55 drill ships are designed to work in the same depths, and there were eight vessels equipped to work in at more than 1,250ft. The main constraint on exploration in these depths is the lack of any technology so far for getting the oil ashore.

Few of the rigs are actually owned by the oil companies. They are normally controlled by independent drilling contractors usually working on long-term contract to the exploration companies. H. P. Drewry estimates that 80 per cent of the existing fleet is controlled by American com-

panies. The high percentage of United States ownership is to be expected, as the offshore drilling industry was born in the Gulf of Mexico and much of the drilling knowledge and experience is still in American hands.

However, in the past two years European and Japanese companies have been entering the rig-owning business, usually acting in consortia and owning one or two rigs. Norwegian shipowners have been particularly prominent in this business, following the example of the Norwegian shipbuilders who are now a major force in the rig-building sector.

With the capital cost of new rigs rising almost daily—a new generation, all-weather semi-submersible rig can cost more than \$12m—established American drilling contractors have been more amenable to joint ventures with European partners. Where experienced rig operators are not members of a consortia the experience of established ship owners has been used.

Norwegian interest in rig owning is typified by the nine-company consortium, Deep Sea Drilling, which has two Aker semi-submersible rigs on order. The group is led by shipowners Rederiet Odell and includes Mosvold Shipping, Klavness and Estal-Larsen. Oslo Drilling is a grouping of shipowners—H. Waage and W. Wilhelmson—and two Canadian-based oil companies Home Oil and Dow Valley. British shipping companies are also becoming involved. Reardon Smith and

W. A. Seuter are both partners in the British registered Atlantic Drilling Co.

The effect of these new independent groups is seen in an examination of the ownership of the 121 rigs on order. According to H. P. Drewry the American share drops from 80 per cent to 57 per cent, and a further 18 per cent (15 per cent) will be jointly owned with European interests. Only 2 per cent of the existing fleet—a total of six rigs—is jointly owned by United States-European interests.

H. P. Drewry says that in the short term there should be no problems for rig owners as the shortage of drilling vessels is likely to continue for at least two to three years. After 1977 shipbuilders may face a reduction in demand for conventional tonnage and look to rig building to fill any gaps in their order books. The prospects for profitable employment are strong, but the report points out that if the search for offshore oil follows the pattern of the on-shore industry, demands for state participation might be extended to the drilling rigs.

In the longer term H. P. Drewry says it is difficult to be pessimistic about the offshore industry. One of the most vital decisions to be taken concerns the choice of rigs. To be successful, equipment has to be ordered for specific markets. Semi-submersible rigs designed for the North Sea cannot operate as economically as smaller vessels in shallow water, and deep-water jack-up structures are more expensive to operate than smaller jack-up rigs.

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London loses to national markets but gains on reinsurance

by D. M. Lambert

Until recently, the London market was almost the only place available to owners to insure their vessels, but as more and more nations become independent, they are developing their own insurance markets. Of course, the latter still need protection against serious casualties, and invariably reinsure back into London.

Another development has been what are termed "captive companies". These are companies in which large shipowning firms take an interest, and are used to underwrite part of the owners' own fleet, but they too need protection, by way of reinsurance, against severe casualties.

This is an interesting idea, as it shows the owner's belief in his own operation, in that he will take a fair proportion of his own risk—yet at the same time, because the "captive" must lay off the business still returns to the London market, though at possibly slightly lower rates than would have been paid originally.

A further development that affects the thinking of

underwriters is that, whereas in previous years the highest values were never astronomical, today with very large crude carriers (VLCCs), container ships, and specialized gas and product carriers, one has to talk of values of \$100m or more. The effect is to upset the balance which the underwriters like to maintain, for the premiums received in relation to these massive values do not, in underwriters' opinion, give them sufficient protection against a severe casualty.

Besides vessels, there are also large aircraft carrying hundreds of passengers which, in the event of a major loss, would undoubtedly affect the position of the market in general, for many of these risks are underwritten by marine underwriters because of capacity considerations.

One of the difficulties which a broker has to contend with in the negotiations between shipowners and underwriters is that the upward and downward trends on either side are generally completely opposite. When the freight market is at its lowest, underwriters' losses are at their highest, because the after-effects of a boom produce many claims arising

from delayed repairs. Conversely, when the freight market is high, underwriters having, as it were, recovered their losses by higher rating, then start to cut rates in the hope of attracting further premium from overseas markets.

However, this problem may resolve itself in the future, as the owners' highest point has not been minimized by the severe increase in costs of fuel oil and wages, and therefore there should be a lesser swing than has been seen in previous cycles.

Owners find it difficult to understand the overreaction of all markets to highs and lows—why, the moment underwriters find they are not making a profit, rates are either increased savagely or, in the case of certain markets, underwriters withdraw entirely and wait for the day when rates reach a higher level, whereupon they return.

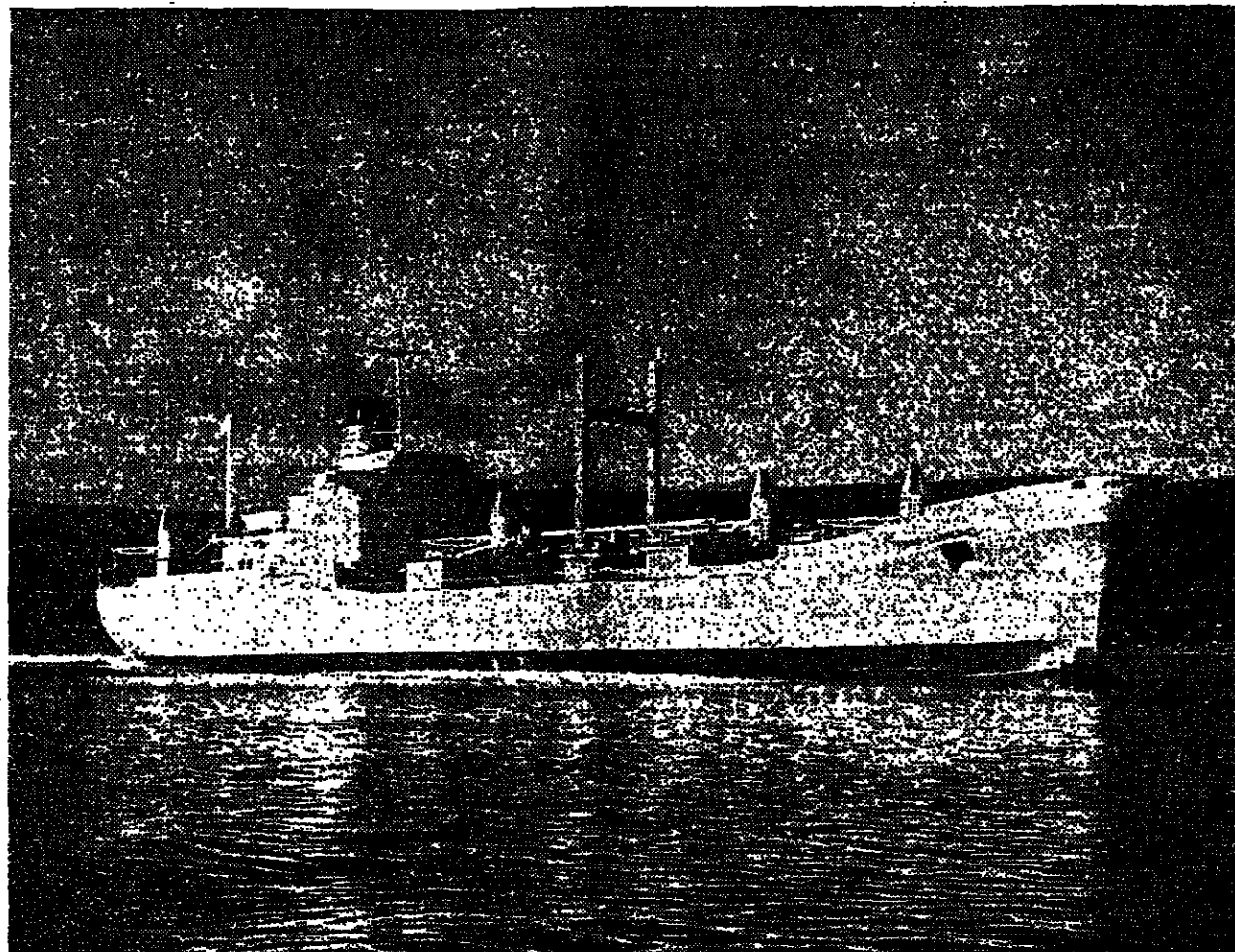
Such action is unhelpful to shipowners who must have continuity to calculate their running costs for the immediate future. There is a good case for long-term contracts between underwriters and owners for, say, three years, with built-in increases or reductions where applicable, as opposed to the

present maximum cover available of 12 months. Such arrangements would give both sides a little more security and would eliminate much annual work through-out the market and therefore save administrative costs.

It is my belief that the market generally is near its minimum rates and should remain this way for the immediate future, providing there are no major catastrophes, whether they be typhoons, air crashes or explosions in supertankers, all of which affect the world-wide markets. No doubt underwriters' rates are already too low, and one prominent underwriter has been heard to remark that the sooner he made a loss, the sooner his rates would increase.

On the other hand, owners would not agree, for the biggest single item in the vessel's cost at the moment, I believe, arises from insurance.

Insurance is necessary to oil the wheels of commerce, and despite worldwide trends of violence and other hazards, I am confident that Lloyd's and their overseas underwriting friends will continue to surmount their difficulties for many years.



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High reputation of British marine equipment keeps exports healthy

by Peter Hill

There can be few merchant ships, and indeed warships, which do not include at least one piece of equipment which had its origins in a workshop in Britain. In many others a large part of the equipment on board is British made, ranging from engine room machinery to complex navigational equipment and from galley stoves to lifeboats and rafts.

Marine equipment suppliers play a vital role in the activities of Britain's shipbuilding industry, and the value of the equipment they supply represents a substantial proportion of the cost of any ship. But despite the size of the domestic market—the United Kingdom produces more than a million tons gross of new tonnage each year, and with extra capacity being intro-

duced this will increase—British manufacturers have over the years sought to develop and expand their overseas business.

The industry's turnover is well over £500m, and export contracts account for about half the industry's order book, which is no mean achievement in view of the intensity of the competition.

A survey carried out by the British Marine Equipment Council (BMEC) a few months ago revealed that some 90 per cent of their production. It is the BMEC, formed in 1956 soon after the publication of the Geddes committee report on shipbuilding, which effectively fashions the policies and activities of the marine equipment industry.

While the organization fulfils most of the conventional activities and duties of a trade association, there are important differences. Its operations are based on the concept of promotion rather than protection; and, since it embraces several hundred different products, its emphasis tends to be on customers rather than producers.

Perhaps one of the greatest single achievements of the BMEC since it was founded has been its success in coordinating the activities of a previously diffuse conglomeration of companies into a considerably more effective force in the world market.

The task may to some extent have been made easier by the high esteem in which British marine equipment is held internationally. Design, performance and quality of many items of British marine equipment command considerable respect.

The standards of research and development have remained consistently high, and the United Kingdom industry has considerable reserves of engineering skill and knowledge acquired over many years which have ensured that the industry has been able to provide a strong and sustained challenge to its more youthful competitors.

In clear recognition of its performance, the marine equipment industry was asked last year by the British Government to stage the first commercial exhibition at the new British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo. Even though a display in Japan of marine equipment manufactured by British companies may have appeared like taking coals to Newcastle in view of Japan's own massive presence in shipping and shipbuilding, the British exhibitors came away well satisfied.

In addition, no participation at international exhibitions like Posidonia and the Nor-Shipping exhibition held in Oslo, the BMEC has been active elsewhere overseas. It has organized a series of forums in Scandinavia in the past two years, and in addition to providing an opportunity for informal contact between customers and their suppliers through lectures and discussions the concept had other objectives.

Briefly these were: to enable the British industry to make an effective and fairly inexpensive impact on an overseas market, and also to allow an immediate

and independent follow-up by those companies taking part. At the same time the forum idea has enabled the BMEC to introduce the whole range of British marine equipment available for export, in addition to what was offered by companies taking part. The industry has staged other promotional events in Holland, Yugoslavia, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and several other countries.

While the industry can be expected to maintain the momentum it has established in promotion activities, particularly overseas, it does face key issues at home. The three-day week introduced after the cuts in oil supplies, and the miners' strike, led to problems for the marine equipment industry as severe as those in any other sector of British industry.

Although many companies were able to continue working at near normal levels, some of the smaller companies were badly hit, while throughout the industry the cost of the strike was to obtain the basic raw materials, iron and steel, and other bought-in components, which must have adversely affected performance.

Meanwhile, at a time of continuing high inflation, the marine equipment industry in Britain is pressing ahead with discussions with the Shipbuilders' and Repairs' National Association with a view to negotiating an agreement for forward pricing in a highly inflationary situation. The BMEC considers that this requires urgent action, as there has been considerable disquiet about it over a long period.

Bought-in equipment accounts for about 55 per cent of the finished cost of a merchant ship, but while shipbuilders have over the past two years negotiated cost-escalation clauses with their shipowner customers, they have continued to enter on fixed-price contracts with their marine equipment suppliers.

The difficulty faced by marine equipment suppliers was underlined when two years ago the Conservative Government introduced a system of tapering grants to the shipbuilding industry to run for a three-year period and based on ship value. The scheme was in part designed to offset inflationary difficulties being experienced by the shipbuilders, but it did not extend to marine equipment suppliers. This remains an area of continued concern.

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BUSINESS NEWS



Not yet the time to let Americans buy and sell gold, says Mr Volcker

From Frank Vogel
Washington, May 30

Mr Paul Volcker, Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the United States Treasury, stated here that the government did not consider the time yet right for allowing Americans to buy and sell gold, despite mounting pressure for this in Congress.

Mr Volcker said gold would figure prominently in the discussions on June 12 and 13 of the Committee of Twenty on monetary reform.

Another major issue at the Washington meeting will be a United States proposal for an international agreement strengthening the powers of the International Monetary Fund to prevent countries taking unilateral trade actions that could be internationally harmful for balance of payments purposes.

The agreement would go considerably further than the general 12-month pledge being signed by ministers at the meeting in Paris today of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The Senate yesterday passed an amendment to legislation giving \$1,500m (£225m) to the International Development Association that would allow Americans to buy and sell gold freely from September 1.

The legislation would allow Americans to buy and sell gold freely from September 1. The legislation would allow Americans to buy and sell gold freely from September 1.

Mr Volcker said the government would like to see permission for Americans to buy and sell gold limited to coincide with international agreements on the question of gold's position in the monetary system. He said he did not expect a gold agreement to be reached at the Committee of Twenty meeting.

Further, the government firmly believed permission for Americans to buy and sell gold should be timed to ensure no disruptive effect on international markets.

The basic American view on gold was that the United States did not want to get back to a position where reserves creation and monetary markets were affected by speculation in the private gold market.

The Under-Secretary said there was an urgent need for agreement to ensure that countries did not take actions on trade that hampered the development of current account transactions.

He said the OECD agreement went some of the way, but the proposal to create a Committee of Twenty would be more of a procedural nature, reinforcing what many countries had been saying for months now, and strengthening surveillance of the real situation.

He added that Gatt rules were to some extent outmoded and there was a "sort of no-man's land" between the Gatt and the IMF on seeking to ensure that countries did not take disruptive

trade actions because of payments problems.

To correct this, the United States was now proposing that while in no way taking anything away from the Gatt, there were to be new trade measures taken for balance of payments purposes, then the fund should have the surveillance power.

There was a good deal of general support for this proposal, but there was no certainty that it would be accepted at the Committee of Twenty meeting. However, "the chances are reasonable and we shall push for it".

The Committee of Twenty meeting should be able to conclude agreements on the establishment of an IMF to strengthen the IMF in an institutional form.

Further, Mr Volcker continued, agreements should be reached on general guidelines for special drawing rights; on the final form of the oil financing facility proposed by the IMF; on the establishment of a new development council under the Joint Venture of the IMF and the World Bank for aiding developing countries.

The dollar had rebounded strongly in the foreign exchange markets in the past week, Mr Volcker added. Its decline had been due to a new rise in interest rates here than abroad, and to trade developments.

The difficulty in the exchange market field now was that there was at least one European currency that had stood out, which had tended to show other currencies as being weak.

The IMF's oil financing facility must be seen primarily as a sort of safety net for commercial markets, in the recycling of funds flowing as a result of the oil situation.

Mr Volcker felt the problem with the facility was that it failed largely to aid the poor developing countries in financing their oil-related payments deficits.

He was optimistic that a compromise would be agreed on the question of special drawing rights, basing them on a basket of currencies.

Melvin Westlake writes: The price of gold jumped \$6 an ounce in the London bullion market yesterday to \$167, on the news that the Senate had passed an amendment permitting American citizens to buy and sell gold.

Yesterday's rise in the bullion price sharply reversed the weaker market trend of the last week. In March, the price brushed \$150.

However, high interest rates and general shortage of liquidity, together with some disappointment that the price failed to reach \$200 an ounce, have led to stable selling.

Many dealers are sceptical that the House of Representatives will now give the necessary approval for American citizens to hold gold.

UK gold rules, page 24

BP's profits for first quarter up by £248m

By Anthony Rowley

British Petroleum's net trading income was 64 times greater in the first quarter of this year than in the comparable period of last year, rising from £47.4m to £2,955.5m.

However, BP pointed out last night that the figures include an estimated £175m of non-recurring profit. This arose from the sale of stocks held at the time of the first quarter, after the "tremendous rise in the cost of crude oil imposed by Middle East oil exporting countries as from January 1."

Mr Westlake estimates that our Middle East cost per barrel of crude oil averaged about \$34 (say, £29 per ton) as compared with about \$34 (say, £31 per ton) in the closing months of 1973. The cost of replacing the stocks at March 31 at the new prices has increased by about £500m, and the non-recurring profit element in the first quarter has provided only a part of this very large additional cash burden.

Although the first quarter profit figure was well in excess of most stock market estimates, the price of BP shares fell 5 1/2p to 535 1/2p last night, reflecting uneasiness about the future course of oil company earnings generally.

This was reinforced to some extent by BP's statement yesterday that "the first quarter figures have been produced at a time when the group is placed in the extraordinary position of not knowing the exact cost which will have to be paid for oil lifted. Therefore, certain assumptions have had to be made."

Total sales tonnages in the first quarter were 15.3 per cent below the level for the corresponding period of 1973, mainly owing to "supply constraints and market reaction to higher prices," BP said.

Financial Editor, page 25

Companies back out of Ulster move

By Stewart Tindler

Within a week of Ulster's factories closing because of the strike, five companies who were negotiating a move to the province, have backed out.

Unemployment has been running at 5 per cent, but forecasts suggest it could double by July.

Estimates put the damage to the economy at anywhere between £18m and £100m, and there are considerable fears that confidence in the province's economy has been hit.

It was only three weeks ago that seminars were held in four European capitals to promote Ulster's advantages for new industry. Top of the sales attraction was the availability of labour.

Many of Ulster's manufacturing industries, employing 180,000 men out of a total working population of half a million, found themselves with processes halted in mid-operation. Production is normally £1.75m to £2m per day.

The strike came at a time when companies like Steel Brothers had just begun to recover. Now industry is faced not only with trying to catch up on orders, but wondering whether buyers and investors will continue to bring in sales and money.

Agriculture was hit particularly hard by the power cuts and shortages of feedstuffs. This province's 35,000 farmers have a gross output of £200m a year and account for 16 per cent of Northern Ireland's exports.

Milk producers were throwing away 150,000 gallons a day, and last weekend the figure rose as high as 250,000 gallons. They have lost somewhere in the region of £1.3m.

Pig stocks had to be held rather than slaughtered, which meant feedstuffs cost farmers an extra £100,000 over the two weeks. Some stock was held at slaughterhouses and had to be discarded when lack of feedstuffs caused cannibalism.

Ulster has been recovering from an outbreak of foot and mouth, and the strike gave farmers added problems. One farmer, it is said, was forced to drown 250,000 chicks because of power cuts, while another lost £1,100 in a night when the fans were cut off, causing his birds to suffocate.

The Ulster Farmers' Union estimates that poultry farmers lost £150,000 in one week, although some eggs were exported by fishing boats. Farmers may now have to cut egg prices.

Commercial trade has been at the mercy of the bombers for some time, but there have been grants to recoup the damage. There will be no compensation for the effects of the strike.

Yesterday Belfast Chamber of Trade said many shopkeepers were worried about their cash-flow. Cheques have been paid for deliveries, but there is no money in the accounts because there has been no business.

The likelihood is that some stores, especially smaller shopkeepers, will go out of business.

Orders may not now be so prompt from the United Kingdom, and the chamber reports that hostility is replacing the loyalty suppliers have shown during Ulster's troubles.

Business Diary, page 25

Many overseas banks are among larger creditors of Stern Group

By John Pender

A large number of overseas banks and a building society have emerged as creditors of the troubled Stern Group, which recently called in Mr Kenneth Cork, the City accountant, to discuss ways of effecting an orderly realisation of the group's property assets.

This follows the disclosure that the Crown Agents, along with a number of domestic banks including First National Finance Corporation and Keyser Ullmann had lent substantial funds to the group. Among those most heavily involved is International Marine Banking, a subsidiary of the United States Marine Midland Bank, which had advanced around £6.3m for a period of 10 years to Stern companies by last June.

Other subsidiaries of American banks which have registered charges on the group's assets include First National City Bank, with nearly £21m on the mortgage registers in Companies House; First International Bankshares, a subsidiary of the Texas-based bank of the same name, with over £1m; and Continental Illinois which has made a number of advances of unspecified amounts.

Continental and other overseas banks have also registered charges on a number of Stern properties. Just over two months ago International Credit Bank of Geneva recorded a charge for £1m, owed by Metropolitan Property Holdings, the leading property company in the Stern empire.

The Trade Development Bank has extended a number of loans and there are also minor advances from the Bank of Nova Scotia, First Chicago and Banque Belge, while the Swiss Israel Trade Bank and Bank Leumi (UK) have also been involved in one or two instances.

It is clear from a study of the

Stern Group's companies that the overseas banks have played an increasing part in the British property market over the past 18 months. Many of these banks had made advances to the Lyon Group, whose troubles have been widely publicised.

The largest charges that are quantified in Companies House, however, relate to the Crown Agents. Mr E. A. Morris, a former Crown Agent, is chairman of National Life, the life assurance subsidiary of Stern Family Holdings. Over £7m appears on the registers in the name of Four Millbank Nominees, a Crown Agent company. And many British secondary banks such as Old Broad Street Securities and Sir Isaac Wolfson's Anglo-Portuguese Bank, appear frequently.

Few of the overseas banks approached by Business News yesterday were prepared to comment on their position. One, however, acknowledged that the Stern Group was in technical default over its advances. And a spokesman for the building society, Nationwide which advanced a 20-year mortgage of £60,000 to Metropolitan Property Holdings in mid-1972 on the security of two blocks of flats, said that the society had been happy to advance money to the group on flats built for letting.

He added that he was satisfied that the transactions the society had entered into with the Stern Group had been "good business."

It is still not clear what led directly to the appointment of Mr Cork and the suspension of the shares of the Stern Group's properties. Just over two months ago, however, the property activities of Metropolitan Property Holdings have enjoyed an astonishing expansion since Mr William Stern broke away from the property group of his father-in-law, Mr Osias Freshwater, in 1971.

As for the big oil companies, Mr Simonet believes their role cannot be the same as before the energy crisis.

Public authorities, both at national and community level, must have accurate and complete information on the management of oil companies, their import policy and investment programmes, he says.

There must be "permanent consultation" between the oil companies and national and community authorities. The latter must have the "necessary instruments" to intervene, notably as regards imports from, and exports to, third countries, and the maintenance of the homogeneity of the market.

Furthermore, according to Mr Simonet, oil companies operating in the Community should subscribe to specific commitments to safeguard the interests of the consumers.

While the companies assume an essential role in the public authorities will more and more be called on to negotiate with producer countries and to ensure the safety of supplies, he writes.

Mr Simonet repeats the target for 1985 defined by the Commission in April: petroleum's share in energy consumption to be cut from 63 to 40 per cent, nuclear energy to increase from 1.5 to 17 per cent, etc.

He has nuclear energy and gas covering 50 and 30 per cent respectively of Community energy needs towards the end of the century.

Oil companies may face curbs as result of Commission's new energy strategy

From Roger Berthoud

Brussels, May 30

The Community energy strategy drawn up by the European Commission recommends close surveillance with a downward graded and essentially technical role for the big oil companies.

The Commission's memorandum, which will probably be passed with some formal proposals to the Council of Ministers next week, has been drawn up after consultation with senior officials of the Nine in the new energy community.

It is the Commission's "interventionist" view of the French, Italians and Belgians, that the freedom of the oil companies should be curbed in the interests of an "orderly" community market.

The British, and to a lesser extent the Dutch and Germans, oppose the imposition of controls and believe the oil market should be run by professionals rather than national or international civil servants.

Outlining the Commission's memorandum strategy today in an article in the Brussels newspaper, *Libre Belgique* (an annual forum), Mr Henri Simonet, vice-president for energy, points out that the energy field closely concerns the principle of national sovereignty; hence the lack of progress in the Community.

He detects a disquieting tendency to allow the present lack of Community policy to persist. He says that the shortage of oil is past (perhaps only temporarily).

Europe's dependence for 70 per cent of its oil on the Middle East must be reduced, he stresses, and Community solidarity must be organised in a tangible way. The Commission's basic strategy is to cut oil consumption and boost the role of nuclear energy and natural gas.

Mr Simonet repeats the target for 1985 defined by the Commission in April: petroleum's share in energy consumption to be cut from 63 to 40 per cent, nuclear energy to increase from 1.5 to 17 per cent, etc.

He has nuclear energy and gas covering 50 and 30 per cent respectively of Community energy needs towards the end of the century.

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OECD states declare against 'beggar my neighbour' policy

From Richard Wigg

Paris, May 30

Twenty-four of the world's leading industrial nations today pledged themselves here not to resort to "beggar my neighbour" trading measures over the next 12 months.

They approved this "code of good conduct" at a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to help maintain normal trade flows and jobs despite the unprecedented balance of payments deficits now facing many of these countries.

As the meeting ended it became known in the corridors of the OECD that the finance ministers of the old "Group of Ten" countries are to come together again in Washington just before the "Committee of Twenty" of the International Monetary Fund assemble on June 12.

The Group of ten—United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Japan, Canada, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Sweden—will discuss the parallel problem of financing the balance of payments deficits provoked by higher oil and raw material prices.

It seems likely that some countries like France will raise the gold price question in Washington, although Mr William Eberhard of the United States delegation to the OECD meeting, commented this evening that he felt the gold question was a matter for the longer term in international monetary reform. Several European Economic Community countries want gold revalued so as to help their balance of payments problems.

In the declaration, which foresees no sanctions, the member countries agree:

(a) To avoid measures to stimulate exports or other current account transactions artificially and avoid recourse to unilateral measures of a general

or specific nature to restrict imports;

(b) To abstain from "destructive" competition in official support of export credits, and aim to take appropriate cooperative action in the immediate future to further this;

(c) To consult each other through the OECD to assure the proper implementation of the declaration;

(d) To carry out these pledges "with due regard to the special needs of the developing countries".

The OECD countries, in loosely-worded language, also pledged their governments to cooperate in facilitating the financing of balance of payments deficits and to "consider appropriate arrangements which may prove necessary".

Italy especially during the two-day meeting has been plugging the argument that a trade pledge will not itself be sufficient to help those countries like itself with graver balance of payments deficits unless "concrete" cooperative financial steps are taken as well.

Signor Antonio Gioritti, the present chairman of the Ministerial Council and Italy's Minister of the Budget, discreetly emphasized this argument when he summed up the proceedings for journalists this evening.

Mr Emile van Lennep, the OECD secretary-general, warned the 24 member nations that they must also show "extremely prudent demand management" in order to tackle the inflation at home which had started before the impact of higher oil prices.

This was also the essence of the contribution by Dr Hans Friedrichs, West Germany's Economics Minister, who said that regaining world economic balance was first of all the task of national governments and parliaments. He said they must produce the "courage" and the "political will" which had hitherto been missing.

Shares rally on Wall St

By Our United States

Economics Correspondent

Washington, May 30

Shares started to recover on the New York Stock Exchange today following yesterday's sharp fall. At the close of trading the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 8.21 higher at 803.58. It had fallen by 18.93 points on Wednesday.

Brokers reported that when the market failed to fall further in the first half of today's session some "bargain hunting" appeared.

The Federal Reserve system actively sought to ease the liquid

dry situation, but its impact was minor and Federal funds continued trading at about the 11.5 per cent level.

Fed members have gone out of their way in recent days to state that their policy is now one of reducing gradually the rate of money supply expansion.

In a speech to the National Economists Club Dr Henry Wallach, a member of the Fed's board of governors, noted that the approach of monetary policy, aimed by its nature, must be gradual.

No break in clouds over Wall Street, page 25

STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS LIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENT

DIVIDENDS

At a meeting held on 30th May 1974 a final dividend was recommended for the year 1973 of 3.96975 pence per share. The recommended final dividend when added to the interim of 2.94 pence per share would total 6.90975 pence per share. After making due allowance for the imputed tax credit to shareholders resident in the United Kingdom the 1973 total dividend is 10.125 pence per share compared with 9.643 pence for 1972, which is the maximum we are allowed to pay.

The 1973 final dividend warrants will be posted on 31st July to shareholders registered on 21st June 1974.

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT STATEMENT FOR 1973

	1973	1972
Turnover	49,766,119	28,581,647
Profit for the year before charging depreciation	3,201,199	2,072,294
Depreciation	1,122,589	796,138
Profits less losses of associated companies	2,078,610	1,276,156
	352,954	212,698

Profit before Taxation and Extraordinary Item	2,431,584	1,488,854
Taxation (Note 1)		
Current Year	1,601,998	790,301
Previous Years	(1,348)	(42,133)
	1,600,652	748,168

Profit after Taxation and Extraordinary Item	830,932	740,686
Interest of Minority Shareholders	183,789	103,245
Group share of pre-acquisition loss	(42,740)	(1,236)
	151,049	102,009

Profit before Extraordinary Item	679,883	638,677
Extraordinary Item (Note 2)	237,900	
Profit after Extraordinary Item	441,983	638,677
Preference Dividends (Note 3)	73,583	52,123

Profit applicable to Ordinary Shareholders	368,400	586,554
Ordinary Dividends (Note 3)		
Interim	94,071	121,357
Proposed Final	127,019	119,840
	221,090	241,197

Profit for the year retained	£147,310	£345,357
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Earnings (excluding effect of Extraordinary Item) per Ordinary Share	18.95p	19.33p
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NOTES
1. The disproportionately high incidence of taxation of approximately 66% is caused by a £130,722 loss sustained by the Australian operations for which there is no tax relief. Without this loss the rate of tax would have been 51%.

2. The Extraordinary Item comprises losses (including anticipated losses on contracts outstanding) derived from the Australian contracting business for the period for which no tax relief is available.

3. The amounts appropriated from profits in respect of dividends for 1973 are not readily comparable because of the change in the imputation system of taxation, the change in rate of A.C.T. and the issue of ordinary and preference shares in the year.

30th May, 1974 SONDES PLACE, DORKING, SURREY

ODEX RACASAN LIMITED

1973/74 RESULTS

Trading profits before tax £595,200 (1972/73 £494,100)

* Pre-tax profits (before a net extraordinary credit of £43,500) increased by 20.5%, on a sales increase of 15.9%.

* Trading profit to sales ratio improved (within government limits) to 13.6% (1972/73 13.1%).

* Satisfactory prospects currently for 1974/75 profits and future cash flow.

The proposed total Ordinary dividend of 3.2681p per 25p share is the maximum allowed under Phase III regulations.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts obtainable after 24th June 1974 from the Secretary, Odex Racasan Limited, Cromwell Road, Epsom, Surrey, TW20 4DP.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS HYGIENE PRODUCTS DISPOSABLES

HUNT & MOSCROP (MIDDLETON) LTD.

Extracts from the Interim Report

	Half-Year to 31.12.73	Half-Year to 31.12.72
Group Profit before Tax	£230,000	£162,000
Taxation (50%)	£115,000 (40%)	£ 65,000
	£115,000	£ 97,000

	£115,000	£ 97,000
	£230,000	£162,000

Group profit before tax increased by 42% over the similar period last year. The interim dividend was paid on the increased capital amounting to £330,000 gross and £275,000 net - i.e. total cost, £ 55,000.

The Group has recent order books in all divisions and a strong demand continues for all its products both in the UK and overseas. We are undertaking a fairly ambitious capital expenditure programme to increase manufacturing capacity.

The various divisions of the Group, with national coverage, have, and will continue to have, a strong reputation for quality and reliability. We have every confidence that the Group will continue to make progress both this

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens Shareholders

Interim report for the period from October 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974

Major contracts boost export sales

During the first half of the financial year begun October 1, 1973, new order receipts attained a total value of £1,713 million, with a vigorous 16% increase closely approximating the 17% growth for the comparable period of the preceding year. Whilst domestic orders experienced a barely perceptible rise, foreign orders increased by 29%, as against last year's 26%, thanks largely to several major export orders received in the second quarter. Orders on hand, which increased 14% to a total of £2,610 million, reflect an average capacity utilization of more than 10 months.

Sales gained 9%, vs. 11% last year, with a somewhat better growth recorded abroad than at home. A slight increase in the number of employees was attended by a 14% rise in employment costs. The

cost of materials likewise took an appreciable upturn. Generally intensified cost pressures compelled further price markups. The capacity utilization of our plants in Germany and abroad showed only slight improvement. In line with corporate planning, capital outlays were increased 15%. Having acquired the business and assets of Dickson Electronics Corporation, a U.S. electronics firm located in Scottsdale, Arizona, we continue its operations under the name of DEC Corporation. Encouraged by our manufacturing venture in Singapore, we established a new components manufacturing company in Malaysia. In consequence of semiannual net earnings of £38 million, our net margin increased slightly to 2.9%, as compared with 2.7% a year ago.

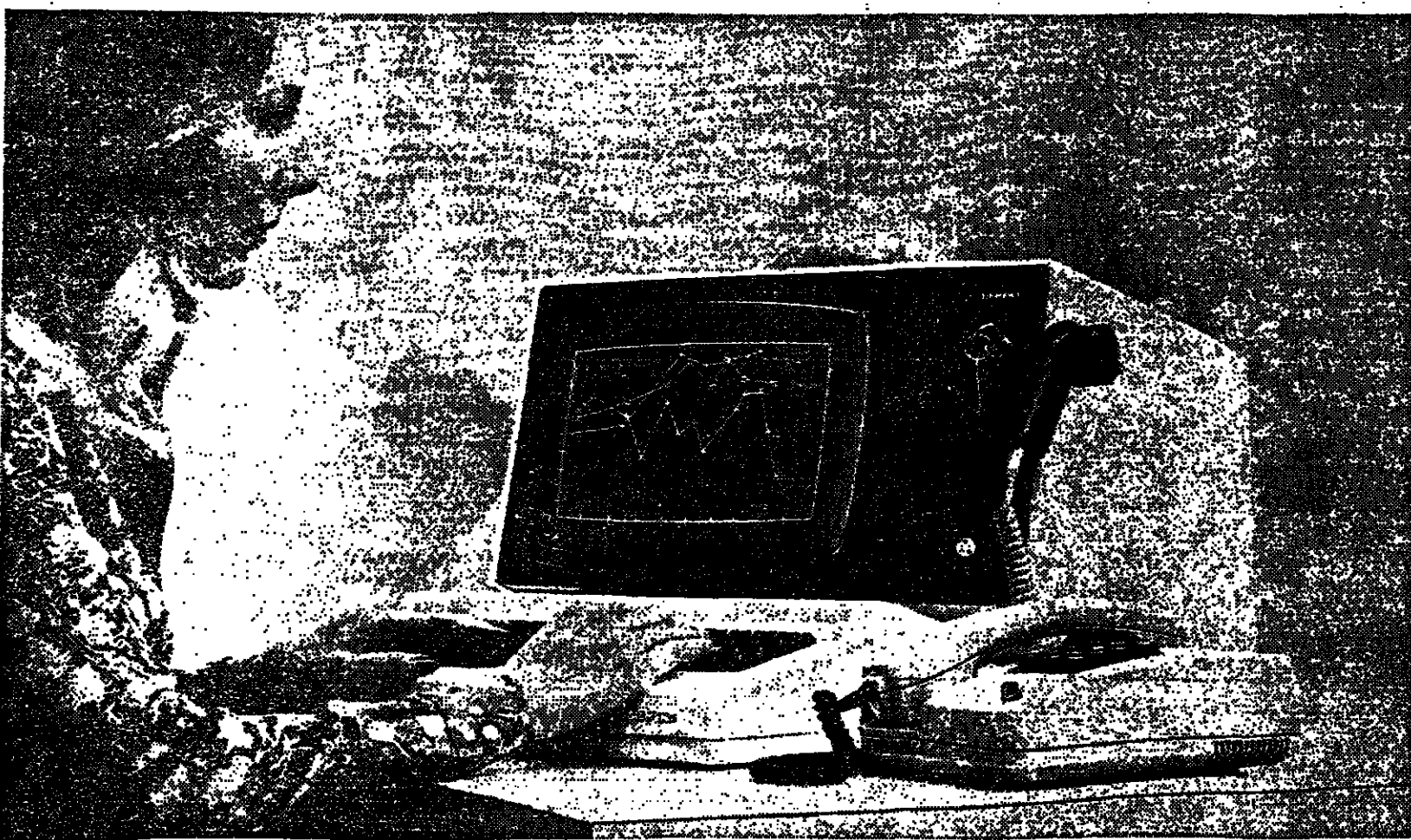
	1st half 1972/73	1st half 1973/74	Change
New order receipts (in millions of £)			
German Siemens Corporations	1,127	1,311	+ 16%
Including export orders of	325	467	+ 43%
German business	802	844	+ 5%
Non-German business	678	869	+ 29%
	1,480	1,713	+ 16%
Sales (in millions of £)			
German Siemens Corporations	947	1,034	+ 9%
Including export orders of	251	287	+ 14%
German business	696	747	+ 8%
Non-German business	507	565	+ 11%
	1,203	1,310	+ 9%

Amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on Mar. 29, 1974. £1 = DM 6,051

Dialogue with the computer

Close collaboration between the telecommunications and data systems sectors is extending the scope of EDP applications. With the help of

telephones and video display units, data can be transmitted over thousands of miles to or from a computer centre in a matter of seconds.



Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Great West House, Great West Road, Brentford TW8 9DG, Middlesex

Southampton hoping to get large part of S African container trade

By Peter Hill

Intensive efforts will be made over the next few months by several of Britain's large ports to secure all, or part, of the lucrative United Kingdom-South Africa trade when it is switched to containerization in 1977. Although the shipping lines have yet to decide on the location of the United Kingdom terminals, it is already evident that the British Transport Docks Board regards Southampton as the leading contender. Sir Humphrey Browne, chairman of the BTDB, speaking in London yesterday said: "We shall get half of it (the trade) for sure."

It is clear that the BTDB in its advocacy of Southampton's case is primarily concerned with the Port of London Authority, which contends that the new seaport at Maplin is necessary and could attract the South African trade. Through Overseas Containers

Limited (OCL) and Associated Container Transport (ACT), the shipping lines have asked for tenders from authorities responsible for the operation of ports on the Tees, Mersey, Clyde, Humber and together with the PLA and the BTDB, have also asked for tenders from Felixstowe and Bristol.

Tenders are scheduled to be submitted later next week, although Sir Humphrey stressed that because of the detailed nature of the submissions, discussions were likely to extend for several weeks.

In a reference to the Maplin project in his annual statement, the BTDB chairman said: "The board strongly believes that for handling containers, the nation has at Southampton an existing port with established potential and one which had already proved its success as a base for

container trades. Southampton possesses very distinct geographical and maritime advantages and can be readily expanded at comparatively low cost."

Plans for an extension of the present facilities are to be submitted later this year. Sir Humphrey said that a 2000-ft extension at Southampton could be built for about £5m—about a fifth of the estimated cost of building a container facility at Maplin.

The BTDB last year recorded an operating surplus of £11.3m compared with £8.4m the previous year, and return on capital improved from 6.1 per cent to 7.6 per cent. The Government has set a target of a 9 per cent return in 1975.

Sir Humphrey said that it was essential that a return on capital of at least 9 per cent was achieved to ensure that national resources were properly employed.

Competition warning by rail chief

By Edward Townsend

A warning that it would be disastrous for the nation if the necessary investment in the country's rail network was sacrificed to short-term expediency was given yesterday by Mr D. Bowick, chief executive (railways) of the British Railways Board.

Mr Bowick, addressing the transportation engineering group of the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, said the board planned progressive improvement of its network of inter-urban services over the next decade and beyond. The investment would be repaid in commercial terms from the extra earnings of "an already highly profitable business".

The plans, he said, would best serve the national interest by relieving the many problems created by growing road traffic on the most heavily used routes between key urban centres. He added: "The implication is that cut-throat competition between air, rail and coach over the main routes may not best serve the national interest."

Mr Bowick said the new understanding of the need for pollution control, respect for the environment and energy conservation led to a fairly optimistic assessment of rail's future development to meet inter-city urban travel needs.

The case for road transport was put by Mr A. J. West, distribution planning manager for RHM Foods, who said the real problem was that as a nation, we had not planned ahead sufficiently.

Output of castings falls 8.4 pc

Output of Britain's ironfoundry industry in the first three months of this year fell by 8.4 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis compared with the corresponding period of last year. The drop in production to 810,000 tonnes over the period from a level of 873,000 tonnes a year earlier reflects the effects of the energy crisis and the miners' strike.

The Council of Ironfoundry Associations said yesterday that compared with the final quarter of last year, there had been a substantial reduction in the tonnage of ingot moulds produced for the steel industry and in the output of car and miscellaneous castings.

The council said that smaller declines were recorded in the production of engineering and building domestic castings, but against the general trend, the pressure pipes and fittings sector increased its output by more than 12 per cent.

"The results reflect a period of abnormal conditions. But, although they represent a serious setback to the industry's performance in the current year, they are above the worst expectations," said the council. The 766,000 tonnes which was produced in the first quarter of 1972, which was similarly affected by a coal strike, said the council.

The industry could derive comfort from the fact that demand for iron castings, and if this continued much of the lost production could be recovered in the remaining months of the year, it said.

Shortage of factories forecast

By Gerald Ely

An acute shortage of new industrial property is forecast in the spring edition of the industrial property review published by Allsop and Co.

During the next 12 months the letting market for industrial property in virtually all parts of the country is going to be very active, it says. Indications are that new industrial buildings will rapidly become scarce, and rents in many areas will have begun to rise by the end of the year.

Conditions for most developers of industrial property are still adverse and many developers have been shelving plans for expansion and not buying new sites. The result is that new industrial accommodation just completed or being built will have been let by the end of the year.

The Midlands, it says, are less affected by the shortage than other areas, but in London and the Home Counties the scarcity is already evident and large sites capable of development are not coming into the market. The report forecasts that in such areas as Watford, Aylesbury, Luton, Croydon, Ilford, Romford and others rents will have risen by about 25 per cent before the year is out.

In Watford, rent levels for industrial property are now nearly £2 a sq ft higher than anywhere else except London where the £2 a sq ft barrier has already been broken.

Business appointments

New Cadbury Schweppes chairman named

Mr Adrian Cadbury, deputy chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, is to become chairman on December 31, in succession to Lord Watkinson, who announced at yesterday's annual meeting that he intended to resign as a director at the end of the financial year.

Mr J. C. Hoeg, who is general manager (London) of the Balfour Beatty Building Society from September 1 in succession to Mr Donald Lawrence, who is retiring.

Mr J. P. Culliton, at present assistant chief executive of Cement-Roadstone Holdings, will become chief executive with the retirement of Mr T. C. Roche on June 30. The board has co-opted Mr J. P. Culliton and Mr P. V. Dempsey, director, to the board of Cement-Roadstone Holdings with effect from July 1, 1974.

Mr Guy Teitzinger has been appointed chairman and chief executive officer of Banque Worms. He replaces Mr Raymond Meyrial, who has been appointed honorary chairman. Mr Robert Dubost, managing director has been appointed vice-chairman.

Mr George Preston, a director of the Standard and Chartered Banking Group, has been made chairman of the Standard and Chartered (TOSCA), the merchant bank jointly owned by Toser Kameley and Milbourn (51 per cent) and SGL (49 per cent). He is also a member of TSKM's main board.

Mr David Henry is appointed chairman of a seven-man board set up by the Post Office to control the postal services in the Midlands region of England. Part time members of the board are Mr John Guest, Professor Leonard Miles and Mr David Ferris. Full time members are Mr Derrick Loosemore, Mr Geoffrey Scott and Mr Keith Webb.

Mr Gordon C. Hurlbert has become senior executive vice-president of the Power Systems Co of Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Mr Hurlbert was executive vice-president, power generation group and is succeeded in that post by Mr Theodore Stern, vice-president, water reactor divisions.

Mr Paul Bristol, chairman of Berry Wiggins & Co, has been made chief executive of the company. Mr Ken Davison joins the board.

Mr S. Kitzky has been elected chairman and chief executive of Slater Walker & Co. Mr Kitzky is in succession to Mr A. R. Tessler, who remains president and also becomes chief operating officer.

Mr David W. Andrew has been appointed to the board of Glenville Enthusiast & Co.

Mr G. L. C. Touche has retired from the board of Kouchie, Remnant & Co and of its holding company Touche, Remnant Holdings.

Mr D. A. Sykes has been made production director of Brush Switchgear, Loughborough, Leics, a Hawker Siddeley company.

Mr R. F. Reeves, a director of J. F. Reeves, has been appointed chairman of the Timber Research and Development Association. Mr T. S. Mallinson, a director of Wm Mallinson & Denny Mott, has been made a vice-chairman.

Mr John N. Sutton, group managing director GRA has joined the board of J. Corral Holdings Ltd.

GREEN'S ECONOMISER GROUP LIMITED

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for 1973 and from Mr. S. L. Green's Statement to shareholders:

TRADING REVIEW: Group turnover rose 17.0%; Group trading profit advanced 23.2%, and pre-tax profit, which had the benefit of significantly higher interest earnings, rose 36.4%. The improved results reflect the benefits of previous years' reorganization and investment decisions coupled with continuing efforts to improve efficiency. More than 40% of 1973 turnover derived from products introduced since 1969. In South Africa recovery continued in the second half and profits for the year have exceeded our expectations.

DIVIDENDS: An interim of 0.735p per share was paid in January 1974 on the Company's enlarged capital and a final dividend of 1.055p per share (maximum permissible) is proposed.

FUTURE PROSPECTS: The upturn in capital investment in 1973, based in a high level of order intake, and this has continued in the early months of 1974. Production and deliveries have held up well so far this year. With order books at record levels in all sections we currently expect a further expansion in turnover and profit in 1974.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: At the Annual General Meeting the Chairman added to his circulated statement by indicating that the Board had now approved an expansion programme for the facilities at Wakefield.

	1973	1972
Issued Capital	1,601,600	1,050,000
Group Net Assets	4,701,156	4,408,403
Profit before tax	846,415	620,507
Profit after tax	420,315	382,678
Dividend (Gross)	2,625p	2.5p

The Directors' Report and Accounts are available from: The Secretary, Calder Vale Road, Wakefield.

Harcros Investment Trust Limited

The sixty-fifth annual general meeting of Harcros Investment Trust Limited will be held in London on 20th June. The following is an extract from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. J. F. E. GILCHRIST, O.B.E. which has been circulated with the report and accounts.

Gross revenue was affected, to some extent, by the re-arrangement by certain companies of dividend payment dates for taxation reasons. The expected fall in plantation income during the year following stock change was reduced by the higher payments resulting from the improved conditions for that industry and showed a decline of only £2,400 on last year. With a substantial increase from £174,181 to £202,400 in income from the commercial and industrial holdings an record gross revenue figure of £443,025 compared with £416,583 for the previous year. The Board recommended a final dividend of 1.0385p per share. With the interim dividend, the total distribution for the year is equivalent to 1.95p gross, compared with 1.85p paid in 1972/3.

The year under review was marked by rapidly escalating worldwide inflation, the restriction of supplies from the oil producing countries and at greatly increased cost with consequent strain on balance of payments and international currencies. In the U.K., many companies were further handicapped by the effects of various restrictions arising from the coal miners' overtime ban. The world stock exchange showed severe falls. At the end of March the Financial Times ordinary share index at 267.4 registered its lowest level for eleven years and showed a fall of 41.4% over our year. The plantation sector, however, in common with many other commodity based shares, showed strength relative to the general index. We benefited from this situation as a record figure of 56p reported a year previously.

Results for the current year are difficult to predict. The outlook for the plantation industry is favourable and our policy of concentrating the general section of the portfolio on companies with export trading operations overseas should provide increasing revenue and capital growth although income will continue at present to be affected by deterioration in economic conditions. We are hopeful that barring a severe fiscal policy, we shall be able to show a satisfactory outcome to the year's activities.

Mothercare

everything for the mother-to-be and her baby... and children under five

FINAL RESULTS

(52 weeks to 30th March 1974)

	1974	1973
Sales	35,445	29,854
UK	4,148	3,022
Overseas	31,297	26,832
Trading Profit Before Tax	6,241	5,825
UK	476	178
Overseas	5,765	5,647
Surplus on Disposal of Properties	253	
Profit Before Tax	6,494	5,825
Tax	3,458	2,325
UK	203	83
Overseas	3,255	2,242
Profit After Tax	3,036	3,395
Earnings per Share	10.25p	10.73p

Sales include Value Added Tax (1973 U.K. Sales include purchase tax of 12.5%)

* Profits and sales have increased in accordance with our budget as modified by the Government's Counter-Inflation Legislation.

* We recommend a final dividend of 32% (1973 28%) making a total for the year of 40% (1973 35%) which is equivalent to 38-19% including tax credit (1973 30%).

* We were disappointed last year not to be able to agree terms for the purchase of a U.S. retail chain which would have been an ideal base for developing Mothercare in that country. If the right opportunity occurred, we would also be happy to buy a retail chain on the Continent of Europe, and we should be pleased to hear of possibilities. In the meantime we will continue our organic growth by finding sites one at a time and opening stores in this way. Our financial resources are strong and our accounts demonstrate our success in the U.K. and now also our success on the Continent.

* The number of stores trading at 30th March, 1974 was: UK 144 (1973, 134); overseas 13 (1973, 11).

Copies of the Annual Report may be had on request to the Secretary.

Mothercare Limited

CHERRY TREE ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS, WD2 5SH.

Austria - Denmark - Japan - Norway - Sweden

Switzerland - United Kingdom - West Germany

Arabs talks likely to discuss oil embargoes

Abu Dhabi, May 30.—Mr. Mansour bin Zayed, the United Arab Emirates' petroleum minister, left here for the meeting of Arab oil ministers opening in Cairo on Saturday.

The meeting is expected to deal with political questions facing Arab producer states, particularly whether they should maintain the 1973-74 oil embargo placed on Holland last October.

Industry observers said that only a few days ago it was believed the session might see demands for re-imposition of the embargo by the United States, which was dropped in March.

But last night's successful outcome of Dr. Henry Kissinger's talks for a troop disengagement between Israel and Syria seems likely to wipe that prospect off the agenda, the observers said.

On Sunday the Cairo meeting will become a ministerial conference of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, and discuss technical and other matters, including the OPEC executive bureau in Kuwait a week ago.

Polish refinery: Iran will build an oil refinery and a petrochemical complex in Poland, and the volume of trade between the two countries will rise to \$600m (about £27m) it was announced in Tehran yesterday.

Japanese projects: A Japanese group led by the Nishio-Iwai Co has reached agreement with Syria to build a \$120m refinery there.

Giro banks help with Hessische write-offs

Frankfurt, May 30.—West Germany's regional semi-public giro banks have offered up to 300m Deutsche marks (about \$450m) to cover write-offs incurred by the Hessische Landesbank in its property and steel holdings, the bank said.

The amount to be offered will depend on the sum the bank finally decides to write off. But taken with the 200m marks available from the bank's operating profits and the possibility of a guarantee from the State of Hesse, there would probably be no need for immediate financial aid from the bank's two guarantors, Hesse and the Hesse Savings Banks association, a bank spokesman said.

The bank's managing board will decide on the volume of write-offs and the method used to meet them on June 18. Losses will be considerably lower than the 800m Deutsche marks suggested earlier, he added.

The Hessische Landesbank turned to the other giro banks

for aid, but it would not have made this appeal if they had not expressed a willingness to support it, he said.

A guarantee from the State of Hesse to cover some of the write-offs would allow time for a fuller assessment to be made, and possibly for some of the losses to be compensated for in other sectors and exclude the need for an immediate cash payment to be made, he added.

No precise formula has been worked out for individual contributions from various giro banks and talks are continuing, but generally the contribution would relate to the size of the individual bank, the spokesman said.

Germany's 12 giro banks—which are backed by the States and State Savings Banks Associations, had a balance sheet total at the end of 1973 of 200,000m Deutsche marks, and a combined basic capital including own reserves of 4,591m Deutsche marks.—Reuter.

Approval for trade reform Bill 'vital this year'

Washington, May 30.—Reform and liberalization of world trade will be a dead issue unless Congress approves President Nixon's controversial trade Bill this year, a senior Administration spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Peter Flanagan, Presidential Assistant for International Economic Affairs, has said there would be no negotiations to lower global trade barriers and expand trade if Congress failed to pass the Bill.

But he was optimistic that Mr Nixon would be able to sign an acceptable trade reform Bill by the end of June or early July.

The President needs the trade Bill to give United States negotiators the authority to commit America to lowering or raising trade barriers and to negotiate the removal of non-tariff barriers, such as those associated with government procurement policies or export subsidies.

Soviet trade pact: An agreement calling for a cooperative study to identify areas of mutual interest in building pulp and paper enterprises in the Soviet Union has been signed in New York by the minister of the Soviet Union's pulp and paper industry, Mr Konstantin Gelshteyn, and Mr J. Stanford Smith, chairman and chief executive officer of the International Paper Company.

An American and a Swedish company were expected to sign a contract to build four hotels in the Soviet Union, Pan American World Airways said in Moscow.

Private gold dealing in UK is still restrictive

By Melvyn Westlake
If an amendment passed by the United States Senate on Wednesday became law, it would give American citizens the right to buy and sell gold—an entitlement still denied to private British citizens.

Until April 1971, it was not even possible for United Kingdom citizens to collect gold coins without specific consent from the Bank of England. Then they were limited to a prescribed number of each specimen.

Now as many coins may be held as desired. But it is illegal to melt them down or to hold or deal in gold bullion—defined as gold before coining or manufacture. But gold coins can be

bought from coin specialists. It is unlikely that an individual collector wishing to buy only a few coins would be supplied by one of the City's five bullion dealers, who effectively constitute the wholesale market (fixing the price each day), as they normally trade only in bulk.

The value of the coins depends on the gold content, and rises and falls in line with international gold prices.

Specialist traders, refiners, manufacturers, jewellers and engineers can buy gold from the city wholesale market or from authorized banks. But the appropriate form will have to be completed first. If the require-

ment falls outside the normal usage, then the application will be referred to the Bank of England.

Most of the principal banks are authorized to deal in gold, together with the two non-bank members of the fixing ring. The five ring members traditionally fix the price twice daily at the offices of Rothschild, one of the bank members.

At the fixing, representatives of these five houses buy and sell on behalf of clients, arriving at an agreed price—the fixing price—and keeping in touch with their own offices by a direct telephone line.

Normal dealing then continues between these five deal-

ing houses and other authorized dealers and clients. Until May 1973, there were restrictions on dealing "forward" in gold bullion, but some restrictions have now been removed, making it possible for dealers, where authorized, to buy and sell gold (within prescribed limits) for delivery at some prearranged date.

London and Zurich are the main trading centres, although some Middle and Far Eastern centres like Beirut also conduct a flourishing trade.

Britain's laws on private gold holding are much more restrictive than those of many continental countries, where citizens have traditionally stored gold

Recruitment of miners higher since strike

By Edward Townsend
The trend of manpower westward in Britain's mining industry over the past 17 years has undergone a big reversal, almost entirely caused by the £160m settlement of the miners' strike in March.

Government figures show that in April recruitment to the mines totalled 3,300 workers, more than double the wastage total of 1,630. It is the first time in three years that more workers have joined than left the industry.

The news will provide considerable encouragement to the participants of the Government's tripartite inquiry into the long-term future of the coal industry. The inquiry, in which both the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board are taking part, is expected to publish an interim report next month.

The NCB, in presenting its £1,500m "Plan for Coal" to the Government, stressed that five key points were essential to the revival of the industry, including higher recruitment and better productivity.

Last night the board released recruitment figures for the week ending May 11, which continued to show a sharp increase over the same period of last year, particularly in the numbers of workers returning to the pits after having left for other jobs.

In the week, total recruitment was 731 against 367 a year previously and included 116 juveniles, 199 adults and 416 re-entrants. Wastage during the week was 184 against 354 a year earlier. Every NCB region except Scotland—which lost 24 workers in the week—benefited from the increase.

Coal production in April at 9.1 million tons was below the 10.7 million tons produced in April last year although this year's period included the full Easter holiday. Low activity levels in the pits indicate that the effects of the strike are still being felt, with some collieries not able to complete the backlog of maintenance work until the end of the year.

Average output per manshift was 41.86 cwt in April against 46.99 cwt in April last year, although total absenteeism in the two months fell from 16.8 per cent last year to 13.4 per cent.

Lancashire port scheme opposed

Plans for a £3m container complex at Fleetwood are to be opposed by the rival Lancashire port of Preston.

Mr Fred Mulley, Transport Minister, was told by a Preston deputation that it was "not in the port's interest" that the British Transport Docks Board, which is promoting the appropriate Bill in Parliament, should be granted powers to develop Fleetwood further.

Mr Harry Heap, Preston District Council's chief executive, said yesterday: "We intimated that approval would be sought to oppose the Bill in Parliament, and all members of the delegation agreed to take all possible action open to them to secure that this development, so detrimental to Preston, does not take place."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sea freight: the switch to Continental ports

From Mr Alan Cornish

Sir, Your Shipping Correspondent (May 25) has drawn public attention to the complaint of a number of shipping lines that productivity in Britain's ports is now so low that it takes up to three times as long to handle cargo and costs up to four times as much as in Continental ports such as Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg.

Simultaneously through the trade journals, the chairman of the West Midlands Shipping Executives Association has pointed to the crippling effect on our trade of inadequate cargo capacity on almost all of the prime United Kingdom liner services—and his has not been a lone voice.

Perhaps not surprisingly, we also have a continuing and rapid increase in the number of unit load freight vehicles being ferried across the North Sea and English Channel.

One wonders to what extent the latter growth in short sea freight traffic is a direct consequence of the prevailing liner and port productivity situations. Is this not all part of the same scenario? Are our merchants becoming permanently obliged to conduct their overseas business via the major Continental ports? This they did tem-

porarily—and with considerable success—during the British national dock strike in 1970 when commercial road haulage traffic through the port of Dover in July that year, for instance, increased by 80 per cent. Is this happening again?

It is against this background that the growth in cross-Channel trade is being used as some justification for the allocation of enormous sums to national resources on construction of a Channel tunnel. It is against this background that the Minister for Transport Industries has refused a public inquiry to check the facts.

How can we be sure that by constructing this fixed link we would not simply be treating a one superficial symptom of a one superficial symptom of a one superficial symptom? Far from effecting any "cure" might it not in the long term greatly exacerbate the underlying economic condition? In short, Sir, have we got our national priorities right?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CORNISH,
Principal, Afro Associates (transport planning consultants) to the Channel Tunnel Opposition Association, 21 Tenneyson Avenue, London E11 2QN.

Dearer electricity: an added burden in the peak hours

From Mr R. Holroyde

Sir, Mr T. H. Rimmer's letter (May 17), is absolutely right. My own consumption of off-peak units for storage heaters over the past year (using four out of five heaters) has risen from 10,123 to 11,123, and with an increase of 0.3p per unit will involve me in an additional cost of £30.36. This added to the 30 per cent increase for ordinary units will cost me approximately 90p a week extra.

Off-peak storage heating is convenient, but even at half-price is a fairly expensive form of central heating. With the extra 0.3p per unit it becomes a burden which few will be able to bear. The only possible outcome will be for consumers to switch back to electric fires for convenience. For those members of

the public who require only immediate heat when they return home from work of an evening for a meal, and then are often out of an evening, the electric fire is adequate.

It will be on for a shorter period—possibly first thing in the morning and in the evening for meals—but at the very time when consumption is at its peak. The off-peak storage heating was an incentive to avoid use at peak periods, but what are the area electricity boards going to do to avoid even heavier consumption at peak hours? Anything less than half-price units will make storage heaters uneconomical. Yours faithfully,
R. HOLROYDE,
11 Barton Avenue, Romford, Essex.

Recruitment of technicians

From Dr J. Ballard

Sir, In their letter published in your edition of May 9, Mr J. Boulton and others commented on the low number and relatively poor quality of United Kingdom students coming forward for training as technicians and technologists. In the main I must support this view, as applied to technicians, while recalling with pleasure however the very sizable minority of extremely worthwhile students I have encountered during several years of technical college teaching.

Mr Boulton and his fellow correspondents see these deficiencies in our technician and technologist supply as partly due to inefficient usage and inferior status and rewards. May I add that in my experience all this is compounded and perpetuated by the out-dated image of the technician still widely held in most of our schools? Even now I see few signs that promising

pupils are being actively encouraged towards technician careers and careers masters, while attempting to give unbiased advice, can often display considerable personal ignorance of the function and importance of technical support staff.

By all means raise the rewards available in industry, but I fear this will produce a rise in numbers of students without the equally desirable rise in quality unless the country as a whole refurbishes its image of the technician and makes sure that teaching staff within the widest possible range of schools are both well informed and unprejudiced in their advice to potential entrants to technical training.

Yours faithfully,
J. BALLARD,
Acting Head of Department of Natural Sciences, Norwood Technical College, Knight's Hill, London SE27 0TX.

Issues behind worker involvement

From Mr Michael Toomey

Sir, I find it very odd that Dr Frank Heiler should be talking about "preliminary steps" in research on worker participation and that Professor Schmitthoff should be countering by talking about research actually having been carried out in this field during the past two years.

This is an extraordinarily provincial approach to the subject of worker participation on which major research has been done, especially in the United States, and also in Europe and Asia during the past 50 years. It is very sad to witness people again trying to establish the law of gravity after the work has been done!

Until a few years ago, when this provincial attitude set in, "participation" was meant in the broad sense of worker involvement. Some of the research, such as the Tavistock's work in the fifties in the National Coal Board has spun-off and led to such developments as the creative work programme in the United States.

The conclusions of the research are clear: workers are more likely to accept change if they are involved in it and participate by using their intelligence and experience. This is a lesson that runs through such classic studies as Harwood and Ahmedabad. The research has also indicated that the conclusions are not always certain and that workers may not wish to participate or want other people to do it for them.

The sad thing about the incredibly narrow definition of "participation" by people these days is that it covers only worker boards—which are very suspect and enable very few workers actually to "participate".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TOOMEY,
Director, Aims of Industry 5 Plough Place, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AN.

Dividends

From Mr N. Wand

Sir, The time must surely be here to ask the Government to relax the restrictions on dividend limitation.

Inflation is rampant, prices have risen more than the permitted annual 5 per cent increase (where it could be applied) and Parliament is now considering increasing MPs' allowances for expenses.

The Prices and Incomes policy, plus Phase Three has enabled wages and salaries to increase beyond the 5 per cent limit, and many investors in stocks and shares have seen their capital more than halved in the past year.

Surely the time has come to have a sense of realism and justice on this issue which will not offend the Government's sensibilities.

Yours faithfully,
N. WAND,
97 Drwastead Road, London, SW16.

Call for car safety to be standardized

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Motor manufacturers throughout the world are investing vast sums of money to develop safer vehicles but without international agreement on regulations, it will all be wasted, says Mr Charles Griffin, chief engineer in charge of British Leyland safety research projects.

Speaking at a preview of the group's exhibits at the fifth International Experimental Safety Conference to be held at Croydon, Berkshire, next week, Mr Griffin made a forthright appeal for motor manufacturers from Europe, Japan and America to press for common regulations as the first step towards safer motoring.

He said it was time that politicians stopped prevaricating and worrying about their popularity ratings. The first move should be to make the wearing of seat belts compulsory. In Britain alone it would be the least expensive way of saving 1,500 lives a year and drastically reducing 100,000 injuries.

The previous four international conferences on vehicle safety had produced a lot of talking and little else. If next week's get-together was to produce something concrete, it could at least start a move towards world agreement on the height of bumpers, he said.

He was particularly critical of American motor companies for insisting on a bumper height of 20 inches while European manufacturers favoured a lower height. British Leyland advocates 13 inches.

Mr Griffin said extensive British tests had shown that a bumper higher than this caused serious injury to pedestrians. British Leyland are engaged in a joint £1.2m project with the Road Transport Research Laboratory to produce safer cars.

Perkins claims diesel engine breakthrough

By Clifford Webb

Perkins, Peterborough, the world's largest manufacturers of high performance diesel engines, yesterday announced the biggest technical breakthrough in diesel engineering for a quarter of a century.

It claims a 50 per cent reduction in engine noise, the ability to meet hitherto impossible clean air regulations, and cheaper production costs. By softening the traditional "diesel knock" and using lighter engine structures, Perkins has brought the diesel to the stage where it could rival the petrol engine as a power unit for light vans and passenger cars.

A £2m development and validation programme has started to develop the new engine into full production by 1976. Prototypes have undergone extensive "highly encouraging" road tests.

The key discovery—a new combustion system—is being called Perkins Squish Lip. Other than indicating that it bears some resemblance to an indirect injection system using a separate combustion chamber, Perkins is being vague in its announcement to protect a lead over rival manufacturers.

How significant this lead is was emphasized by Perkins, which claims that it is now the first manufacturer in the world to announce a capability to meet the proposed California Air Resources Board 1977 legislation without the use of costly turbocharging or indirect injection systems.

Perkins is ideally placed to take full advantage of this in America. Its parent, Massey Ferguson Corporation, recently concluded a deal with White Motor Corporation, a leading United States truck manufacturer, under which Perkins takes over a newly built diesel engine plant at Canton, Ohio. A joint Massey Ferguson-White company has acquired the plant from White.

A Perkins spokesman said: "The breakthrough has given us several options. Today the demand is for more and more power from diesel engines without unnecessary additional weight and bulk. At the same time noise levels must meet stringent requirements and exhausts must be clean."

The key discovery—a new combustion system—is being called Perkins Squish Lip. Other than indicating that it bears some resemblance to an indirect injection system using a separate combustion chamber, Perkins is being vague in its announcement to protect a lead over rival manufacturers.

It is necessary to inform the council that its refinery would not be exclusive, and would produce the feedstocks to the same specifications used by ICI. A service refinery offers facilities to any company with crude oil that needs processing, while a conventional refinery usually handles crude oil of the company which owns the refinery.

Controversy over the plan for an oil refinery project in the Hunterston area of Ayrshire continued yesterday with one of the groups involved sending a letter to the Ayr County Council in further explanation of its proposals.

The Italian-led Oil Refining Services International (ORSI) which plans a 24 million ton service refinery, stressed to the council the ability of its proposed plant to produce a wide range of petrochemical feedstocks. ORSI was prompted to make

Japan may curb South Africa trade

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, May 30
The Japanese government, confronted with protests from black Africa, is studying suggestions for restraining the rapid growth in trade relations with South Africa, a foreign office official revealed today.

His announcement comes soon after reports that Japanese ambassadors in Africa will return to Tokyo during the first week of June to review, among other subjects, Japan's policy towards trade with Rhodesia and South Africa.

As one of the few Asian nations trading with southern Africa, Japan has recently been embarrassed by accusations that Japanese business houses are violating United Nations sanctions on Rhodesia.

While announcing that the government is about to review its stance, the foreign office spokesman made it clear that Japan would not end its trade relations with South Africa.

At the same time he indicated that the government would tighten up existing regulations to prevent future violation of United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia.

The official said the government had, in the face of past complaints from the United Nations, ordered Japanese companies to produce documents which certified that imports from southern Africa had not originated in Rhodesia.

"We are now studying technical problems which will strengthen such measures, and the study is in its final stage", he said.

While the official refused to reveal details of the proposed plan, it is understood the Japanese government might force importers to produce South African railway consignment notes to prove that Rhodesian goods had not been shipped through Portuguese East Africa on false South African certificates of origin.

SLATER, WALKER SECURITIES

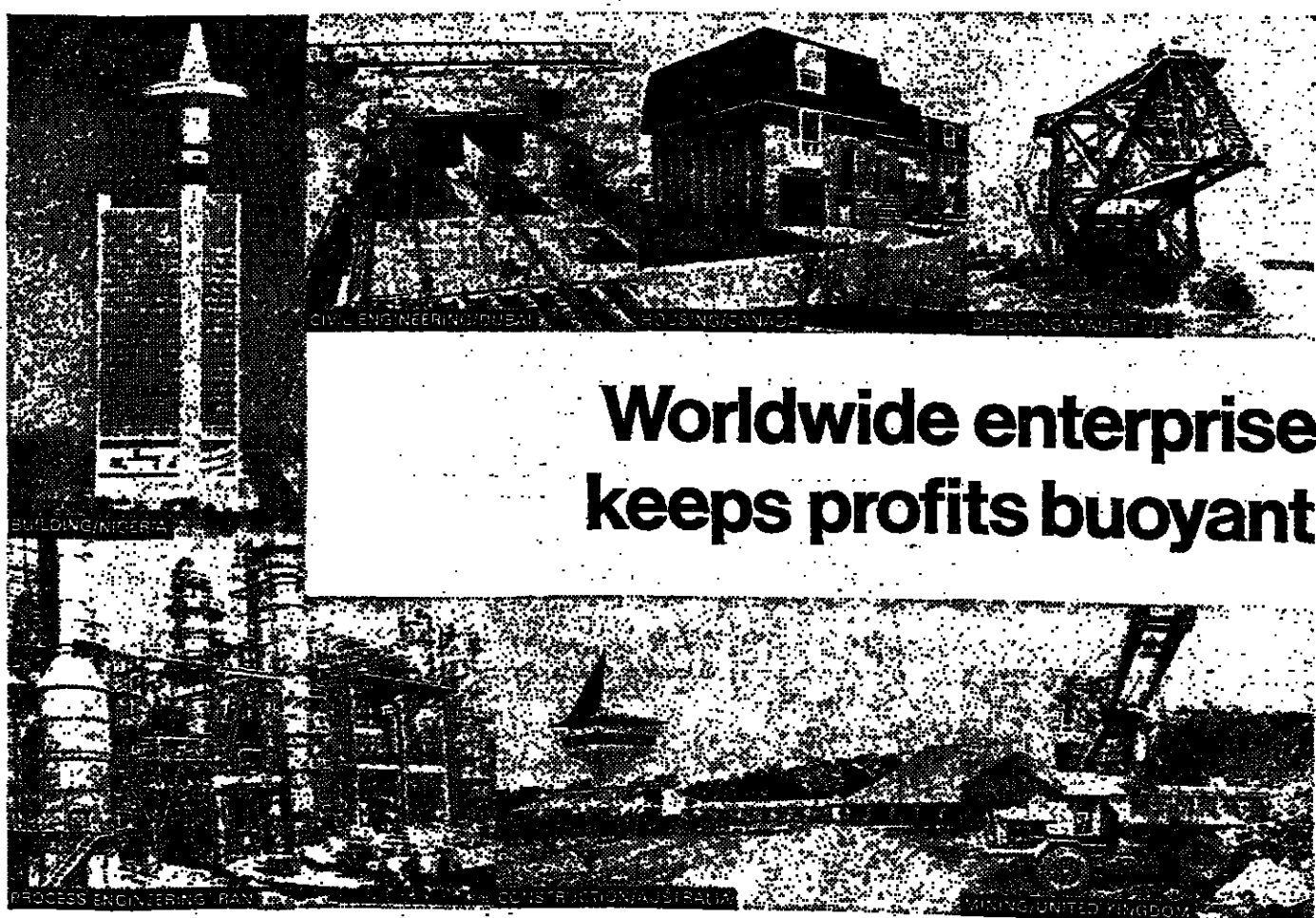
At the Annual General Meeting held on 30th May, 1974, Mr. J. D. Slater said:—

"Since 31st December, 1973, further realisations of important investments have been made by your Company. We have sold our investments in Blackburn Assurance Company, The Pioneer Life Assurance Company, Crittall-Hope Engineering, Slater, Walker of America, Slater Walker Australia and Slater, Walker Securities (South Africa), together with other investments and properties.

The cash proceeds of these realisations amount to some £40 million of which approximately £3.5 million has been applied in cancelling part of our long dated loan stocks.

Our policy of accumulating cash resources continues to engender takeover rumours and queries as to the future of your Company. Your directors consider that, in today's difficult financial conditions and in spite of the present rate of inflation, cash remains the optimum investment for the major part of your Company's available resources. In addition to being high yielding, cash is also a very flexible asset. Your Company is therefore now in a uniquely strong position to take advantage of favourable investment opportunities whenever they arise."

COPIES OF THE 1973 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY, SLATER, WALKER SECURITIES LIMITED, 30, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, LONDON EC4M 8DA.



Worldwide enterprise keeps profits buoyant

J. P. Sowden, Chairman, reports:

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Increased work in oil-producing countries
Results expected to be at least maintained in 1974

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	1973	1972
Turnover	150,000,000	124,000,000
Pre-Tax Profit	9,634,000	8,012,000
Net Profit	4,858,000	4,979,000
Gross Dividend per share	5.25p	5.0p

London and Regional Market Prices

Gold shares higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 24 Dealings End, June 7 § Contang Day, June 10 Settlement Day, June 18
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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South Yorkshire is the Metropolitan County embracing the districts of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield with an area of some 500 square miles, and a population of 1.2 million. The County is based largely on the traditional industries of steel and coal and a great part of the County's energies will be concerned with the solution of resulting economic and environmental problems. The County is a large area of 100 miles of the County is within the Peak District National Park and there are other large areas of a rural character.

South Yorkshire is a new type of local authority, offering in consequence both challenge and opportunity to the young qualified person.

County Treasurer's Department

Applications are invited from qualified accountants for the following posts. For Posts T105, T150 and T158 it would be preferable if applicants also possessed a good knowledge of English.

Principal Technical Assistant £3,504-£3,978 (Post Ref: T105)

The post is in the Technical Services Section, headed by the Chief Technical Officer. The main responsibility will be to assist the Chief Technical Officer in the management of the County's financial resources and to ensure that the County's financial affairs are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1965 and the County's financial regulations.

Group Technical Officer £2,860-£3,367 (Post Ref: T120)

The post is in the Technical Services Section, headed by the Chief Technical Officer. The main responsibility will be to assist the Chief Technical Officer in the management of the County's financial resources and to ensure that the County's financial affairs are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1965 and the County's financial regulations.

Principal Technical Assistant £3,504-£3,978 (Post Ref: T106)

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Application forms and job descriptions should be obtained from the Personnel Officer, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 3UJ, and returned by 17th June. Please quote reference number SR/2300.

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Research and Intelligence Unit

- (1) and (2) Research Analysts
- (3) or Analyst
- (4) Statistician
- (5) Programmer/Analyst
- (6) Research Assistant

The Unit has been established in the County Secretary's Department to supply specialist research and information services to the Authority, both corporately and at a departmental level. The work of the Unit will include advice on the framework for corporate planning, the provision of common information, statistical and forecasting services and assistance to individual departments on particular problems.

The applicants for the Senior Posts (1-4) are likely to have a degree in a relevant subject, preferably with a quantitative, statistical, social sciences, business studies, mathematics, statistics and/or a professional qualification. In addition, several years relevant experience should be offered.

Applicants for the post of Programmer/Analyst should be fluent in Fortran and have knowledge of ICL 1900 systems. Experience in at least one of the areas of computer model building, packages, large data file manipulation should be offered.

The person appointed as a Research Assistant may or may not be a graduate, but in the latter case some further experience would be expected.

Salaries:
Posts 1-4: P01 (£2,273-£3,978) and to £4,356 for more senior appointments.
Post 5: TAP (Up to £2,820)
Post 6: TAP (£1,416-£2,820)

Application forms and further particulars from: **THE PERSONNEL OFFICER, COUNTY HALL, OXFORD OX1 1ND, TEL. OXFORD 21374, Ext. 37**

Closing date: Wednesday, June 12th.

This advertisement appears following consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission for England, and all things being equal preference will be given to local government officers.

